

An Idea

The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER



Volume XXVII Number 4

APRIL, 1937

A New Fabric
Labelling Bill



Farm Pastures and the
Summer Range
Problem



The California
Lamb Crop

Custom is Often the Antiquity of Error!

IN the selection of markets, many growers of the West still follow customs and habits formed years ago—

customs which may have been correct at that time but which today are costing them money.

Livestock producers are generally awake to methods of increased and more efficient production. They purchase better bulls and better bucks. They resist efforts which may restrict either the quantity or quality of production.

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standing. They may sell at home because their father did. They may patronize a more distant market than

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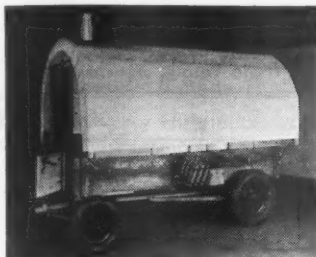
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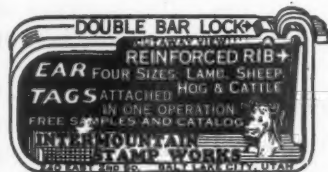


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Contents of This Issue

Regular Departments

	Page
Editorial Comment on Sheep and Wool Affairs.....	5
National Wool Marketing Corporation.....	16
Why the National Says "Consign Your Wool in 1937".....	17
Around the Range Country.....	20
With the Women's Auxiliaries.....	25
Big Gates on Little Hinges.....	27
The Lamb Markets in March.....	31

Special Articles

How Effective is the Wool Tariff?.....	6
The New Fabric Labelling Bill.....	7
No Change in Wool Tariff.....	8
Texas Committee Meets.....	8
Increased Commission Rates at Chicago.....	8
A Page with Dr. McClure.....	9
Trade Agreements Related to Foreign Debts and Argentine Convention.....	10
Argentine Convention Opposed by Oregon Legislature.....	11
April and Wool.....	12
The California Lamb Crop.....	13
Taylor District Affairs.....	14
The Denver Market.....	15
A New Record Lamb Price.....	15
Wool Imports and Their Origin.....	18
High Wool Consumption in February.....	18
A Wyoming View of the Wool Situation.....	18
Recent Wool Selling.....	19
New Mexico's New Laws.....	26
The Frazier-Lemke Act and Federal Land Banks.....	26
The Sheep and Lamb Situation: Spring Outlook Issue.....	28
Farm Pastures and the Summer Range Problem.....	29
Fattening Lambs in Fields.....	37
How Much Will a Lamb Fill off the Cars?.....	39
Wyoming Law on Canned Meats.....	40

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign, \$2.00 per year.

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Editorial Comment on Sheep and Wool Affairs

In my last annual report, presented to the convention at Albuquerque, I made this statement:

Plainly the fluctuations in lamb prices constitute the most serious problem of lamb raisers and the greatest threat to the future of the industry.

For two months after that statement was made, the lamb markets continued at an unreasonably low level. Since March 1, they have advanced to \$13 on two different days.

Lamb Markets

On April 6, the top quotation at Chicago was \$12.35. Although there has been a marked improvement, I still stand on my original assertion that this matter of complete control of lamb prices by probably two, and not more than four concerns, constitutes the most serious threat that exists today against stability and true prosperity for lamb raisers. No more important or difficult question has ever been presented to the National Wool Growers Association than that of bringing about fairer and more equitable methods of pricing lambs at our markets. And the market-made prices directly determine what is paid in all sales outside the markets.

It may be that this ability on the part of two or three packer concerns to almost completely dominate live prices is not being used to unduly augment profits. That is not the real concern of lamb raisers and feeders. Their concern is in regard to a fair price for live lambs based on conditions of supply and the price obtainable for the dressed product under a truly competitive selling market.

A few of the facts in connection with recent market receipts of lambs, dressed and live prices, are of interest. They show almost complete control of live prices by a very few concerns, except on occasional days on which a sizable bunch of buying orders is to be filled at a market. On such occasions of late, the big interests have stayed out of the market and on following days supplied their needs after taking off all the advance brought about by the outside independent orders.

Market Facts

Taking the Chicago market as a basis, we find that the average price of choice slaughter lambs for the month of February was \$10.52. The supply of lambs slaughtered under federal inspection during that month reached the total of 1,315,300 head which was 22 per cent less than January slaughter and practically the same as for February, 1936.

There may be inserted at this point, the interesting fact that only 66.38 per cent of the lambs killed under federal inspection in February were purchased at stockyards. In February of last year, the percentage was 74.43. Over the last 10 years, 82.76 per cent were purchased in stock-

yards. The tightening up of price control and increased buying away from the markets appear to be going on together.

While the February total supply was 22 per cent less than in January, the Chicago market price advanced only 10 cents, or one per cent. The situation and events of March were quite different. For four weeks of that month, total receipts of lambs at seven markets that furnish more than the bulk of all slaughter stock at this time of year were 738,000 head. This was a still smaller supply than the 832,600 head received at the same seven markets in February, and 17 per cent less than the January supply. This decrease in receipts was serious enough to stimulate competition. By Friday, March 12, lambs had advanced to \$12.65. This was the top quotation, but it included quite a variety of lambs, many of which would actually dress out to justify a price of at least 50 cents per hundred above others that went along at the same "jack-pot" price. By this time, dressed carcasses had reached \$19.50 to \$20 at Chicago, and as much as \$21 at New York.

Then on Monday, March 15, only 8,000 head showed up at Chicago, of which 1200 were "direct," leaving only 27 doubledeck cars on sale. Half of these were taken to supply orders from eastern independent killers, and a price of \$13 was established. On Tuesday, only 6,000 came in, and \$13.25 was paid for two cars. Packers' limit was \$13. With only 4,000 received on Wednesday, prices were unchanged. Then on Thursday with 11,000 on hand and larger runs at other points, the top price was set back to \$12.65. On Friday, March 19, there being no orders from the outside, the price was set back again to \$12.40. On the following Tuesday, it was reduced to \$12.10. On that day, carcasses were selling at Chicago at \$20.50 and \$21 and up to \$22 at New York. This high price on the dressed product had prevailed for over a week. Which shows that it was not "what the consumer pays" that took \$1 per hundred off the market price in a week. It was the power of limited buying competition that did it.

This same power is likely to be used again and more extensively as soon as the volume of shipments from the range states gives the opportunity, and regardless of the condition of the dressed trade. The power was exerted last summer. In 1936 the average May price at Chicago on top lambs was \$12.08. It was reduced in each successive month to \$9.80 in August, a drop of 19 per cent. It is true that the numbers killed and distributed increased at the same time. The August slaughter was 15 per cent above that of May which was at an extremely low point. While

Last Summer

large supplies naturally mean lower prices, there can be no defense for that large drop in live prices last summer. In no other class of livestock have prices ever moved so directly in proportion to supplies. As a matter of fact, beef cattle prices were steady to strong during last summer in the face of increasing supplies and record numbers slaughtered. But there are more sizable cattle buyers than there are lamb buyers. Also, during the period referred to, in which live lamb prices were cut 19 per cent, carcass prices at New York suffered only 11 per cent.

By March 31, Chicago prices again recovered to \$12.85, but on April 7 the pressure was put on and the top was again \$12.10. On that day, Chicago had only 4,000 head and there were but 24,000 head offered at seven markets, and New York quotations on carcasses were \$20.50 and \$21. The official government report of the Chicago lamb market for that day said:

The fat lamb supply locally was about one half from Colorado and Nebraska, the quality of both far western and nearby fed lambs being uneven but averaging considerably lower than on any day during previous weeks, the percentage of strictly choice handyweights being the smallest since the opening of the Colorado fed lamb season. Both local packers and shippers were determined to force prices sharply lower, but salesmen fought the early bid until a late hour, a very few loads of lambs moving to the scales before 2:00 p.m. Prices showed a drop of 25@35 cents on practically all fat lamb sales, while fat sheep were barely steady.

If next summer's lamb prices are to be as ruthlessly handled as last, then the raisers may well despair. In some cases, producers can get by on such a market as prevailed last year, thanks to a competitive wool market. But with advancing costs, heavy winter losses and expense, together with interest still being paid on depression debts, producers are decently entitled to a lamb market that is

An April Drop

Next Summer

How Effective Is The Wool Tariff?

THE Boston price of fine staple wool from Montana and similar states was quoted in The Commercial Bulletin of April 3 at \$1.08, clean basis.

At the same time, the corresponding class and grade of imported wool, in bond, was quoted at 76 cents. This was Australian 64's good combing. Before such wool could be released by the customs, a duty of 34 cents per clean pound must be paid. This would make the total cost \$1.10 per clean pound.

At first sight, it looks as though the imported wool is 2 cents per pound

higher than the domestic and that the tariff is 2 cents in excess of being fully effective. However, this is not exactly the case as some adjustment must be made before a true comparison can be reached between the two classes of wool.

It is generally agreed that the absence of bellies, necks and less desirable parts, which have been removed from the Australian fleeces, gives that wool a mill value that is 10 per cent higher than that of the corresponding type of domestic fleeces. In order, therefore, to get a true comparison of the market prices of domestic and imported fine wool, we must reduce the quoted price of the imported product by 10 per cent, which brings this comparable value to 99 cents as contrasted to the \$1.08 for

consistent with the measure of improvement from depression levels that has come to all other commodities.

Unless the future course of lamb prices shall come to, and remain in closer accord with the reasonable expectations of producers under the circumstances existing, their organizations will be forced to an active interest in recent recommendations of the Federal Trade Commission in respect to the prevention of monopolistic control by limiting the size of corporations. This recommendation was contained in a report recently submitted in compliance with a Congressional resolution which directed that a study be made of "the extent of decline of agricultural income in recent years, the increase or decrease for the same period of such corporations or other principal sellers engaged in handling or processing major farm commodities or products manufactured therefrom * * *, the extent of control and monopoly in the handling or processing of the principal farm commodities, etc."

The report deals with numerous commodities and refers to the high proportion of meat supplies handled by a limited number of packers. It cites the fact that in 1934 the three largest packers purchased 40.8 per cent of the cattle supply; that in 1935 Swift's sales of beef amounted to 25 per cent of the total supply, and Armour's, 22 per cent. At a later place, and in reference to controlling the size of concerns handling farm products, the Commission's report said:

Accordingly, the Commission recommends further legislation to provide that no enterprise engaged in interstate commerce be permitted to acquire control over the assets of a competitor, whether directly or indirectly, if the combined assets or output after the union would exceed a specified percentage of the total assets or output of the industry.

the domestic wool. On this basis, the protective tariff is more than effective by 9 cents per clean pound.

Of course, this is only a temporary situation. If it should continue, manufacturers would be compelled to shift to the use of imported wools. But most of them are working on goods ordered on a basis that calls for a certain proportion of domestic wools. The specifications on the cloths cannot be changed. The supply of the domestic wools is very short until shearing becomes more general, and the manufacturer is forced to pay the extra price for what he must have to put into the goods being turned out to fill orders taken some time ago. Most of such manufacturers laid in a supply of the wools needed at the time

they took the orders for the goods, but those who are caught short are just now having to pay a price for domestic wool that shows that the 34-cent duty is more than effective.

In the case of crossbred wools of three-eighths grade, or 56's, a similar situation now exists. The high quotation on territory wool of that grade is 92 cents. The comparable imported grade is New Zealand 56's. This is quoted at 54 cents, in bond, at Boston, which means 88 cents when entered for consumption. Again deducting 10 per cent to cover the difference in value caused by the partial sorting of the New Zealand fleeces and we have comparable prices of 79.2 cents for the

imported wool as contrasted with 92 cents for the domestic wool.

This is another case of the protective tariff temporarily being considerably more than effective due to a special shortage of the domestic wools. Also, the imported wools have been unduly low at Boston, as is evidenced by the fact that considerable quantities have recently been re-exported before having been taken out of bond.

There is no doubt that the grower is getting the full benefit of the protective tariff on wool. In fact, he is just now getting a little more. Certainly, if there were no tariff, he would be getting 34 cents per clean pound less than the trade now is paying.

The New Fabric Labelling Bill

THE Fabric Labelling Act of 1937" is proposed to be enacted by the United States Congress in a Senate Bill introduced on April 2 by Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas.

This bill was prepared jointly by representatives of the National Wool Growers Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. The latter organization is not in complete accord with all features of the bill, but supports all of its more important provisions, and no serious difficulty is expected to develop when the Congressional committees hold hearings and report a measure with recommendations for passage.

Until 1936, the wool growers' chief concern with the truth-in-fabric movement grew largely from the desire to allow purchasers of goods to know whether they were buying virgin wool or reworked wool, or the amounts of each that might be contained in any garment or piece of cloth. Heretofore, all that one needed to do to avoid buying shoddy goods was to limit himself to the purchase of worsted materials. Most of the cloth used for men's suits is built under the worsted system. That system requires fibers of good length. It is in the rougher and heavier woolen goods that shoddy was used. At times worsted goods were adulterated with cotton, and usually its presence was

not revealed by any label or other representation made to consumer buyers. The present bill would require labelling to show the amount of either cotton or rayon in any garment or cloth.

The proposed Fabric Labelling Act of 1937 differs from other bills that have been before Congress for over 15 years in that no attempt is now being made to include shoddy or reworked wool in the requirements for labelling. It is on this point that wool growers and manufacturers always have split in the past. There is not yet any certain, definite method of determining how much reworked wool is present in any particular fabric, other than by factory checking of the mixture of materials prepared for any particular purpose. It cannot be done satisfactorily by analysis of samples of goods. Neither is it yet possible by analysis of samples of goods to determine with sufficient accuracy for law enforcement purposes, the presence of small proportions of the better class of reworked materials. And such determination would be necessary under any law carrying a general requirement for labelling to show the presence or amount of reworked material. It is comparatively easy for the chemist to determine the amount of rayon and cotton in any admixture of wool.

Within the last year, a new situation has developed in the use of rayon in

adulteration of fabrics previously made altogether from wool.

Progress in the production of rayon now permits the output of very fine fibers of any desired length. Early in 1936, numerous manufacturers, seeking to meet the demand for cheaper cloths, began to experiment with the newer types of rayon. It was found that from 45 to 60 per cent of rayon could be used in a worsted fabric, the balance being of wool, and in most cases, experts could not detect its presence by any ordinary method of examination.

Then when we consider that rayon tops can be secured at 40 cents per pound, while wool tops are bringing \$1.20, the seriousness of the new situation and its effect upon wool consumption is readily understood.

Since 1929, the use of rayon in woolen and worsted mills has increased from 15,500,000 pounds to 44,410,000 pounds in 1936. The amount used in the later year was 19 million pounds greater than in 1935. Much of this increased use of rayon last year went into worsted men's suitings. Last year's consumption of rayon by woolen and worsted concerns amounted to 7.1 per cent of the weight of wool used.

The newly framed bill would require the labelling of all cloths or garments sold to consumers as made of wool in a way to set forth the actual percentage content of wool, rayon, cotton, or fiber other than wool or mohair. The term "wool" would not be permitted to appear on a label attached to any cloth or fabric containing less than 25 per cent of wool.

Enforcement of the provisions of this proposed law would be placed under the Federal Trade Commission. That body has made a wonderful record in correcting wrong trade practices. In numerous cases, it has ordered manufacturers or distributors to cease and desist from practices found to constitute misrepresentation or unfair competition. While the Commission issues "cease and desist" orders in cases of first violation it takes violators of such orders into the courts, and severe penalties are imposed upon those convicted.

No Change in Wool Tariff

REPORTS of imminent changes in the wool tariff have been circulated in some sections where wool buying is active. It has been stated that a lowering of the wool tariff would be the result of trade agreements being negotiated with wool exporting countries. Such negotiations are carried on and the agreements put into effect without action of Congress under the powers conferred upon the President by the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934. Congress has extended the life of this act until 1940.

There is no foundation for the statement that wool duties are to be reduced.

The only country to which the United States can consider giving a concession on wool duties is the Argentine. Not even a preliminary announcement has been made of intention to negotiate with that country.

Before a trade agreement is worked out, it is necessary that public notice be given of intention to negotiate with the particular country. Then there must be public hearings for submission of facts and expression of views by all parties whose interests are likely to be affected. Following that, several months are usually consumed in "trading" between representatives of the country and the United States Department of State before an agreement is ready to be announced by the President.

In a telegram sent on April 3 to the National Wool Growers Association, Secretary of State Hull advised that the only countries with which official negotiations looking toward a trade agreement are in progress are Ecuador, Spain and Italy.

The 1936 wool imports from Ecuador amounted to 86,861 pounds, all of which was carpet wool. Spain sent only a small quantity of carpet wool, as did Italy. So that a lowering of duties to any of these countries could not affect the present wool market. Incidentally, negotiations were started with Spain in 1934, and with Italy in 1935, and no agreement has yet been

reached. Wool was not affected by the terms of any of the agreements concluded with 16 other countries between September 1934 and November 1936.

While it has been expected that an attempt would soon be made to effect a trade agreement with Argentina, it appears that nothing official has been done. It is reported that that country is miffed at the refusal of the United States Senate to ratify the Argentine Sanitary Convention drawn up in 1935 to modify the present embargo on meats from that country made necessary by the prevalence of the foot-and-mouth disease.

Members of the Foreign Relations Committee, before whom the so-called convention is pending, still seem to be strongly inclined to take no action in the matter.

Texas Committee Meets

OVER 50 Texas sheepmen met at Del Rio on March 11 as the executive board of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association. Good rains and feed conditions were reported from all sections.

President Hudspeth announced the employment by the association of an assistant to be engaged in securing evidence for prosecution of theft cases. Opposition was voted to a measure before the state legislature that would have restricted the distribution of serums and vaccines by the Sonora Station. The bill would have required that all vaccines or medicines must be administered by a veterinarian.

Strong opposition to the bill before Congress for changing the Supreme Court was expressed by a unanimous vote. A committee of five was named to budget the association's finances. The committee is: Roger Gillis, C. B. Wardlaw, L. A. Schreiner, Roy Aldwell, and Len Mertz.

The next meeting will be held at Kerrville on June 10.

Increased Commission Rates at Chicago

WITHOUT giving notice to representatives of shippers, Secretary Wallace, on March 11, authorized an increase in commission charges at the Chicago market.

The rates previously in effect were those prescribed by the Secretary on January 8, 1934. That scale of rates was contested by the Chicago Live Stock Exchange and the Secretary's action was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in a decision rendered May 18, 1936.

The 1934 scale of rates as applying on sheep, and the new scale authorized to be put into effect on April 1, 1937, is as follows:

	1934	1937
SHEEP:	Cents	Cents
Consignments of one head.....	35	35
Consignments of more than one head—		
For the first 10 in each 300 head.....	20	26
For the next 50 in each 300 head.....	15	16
For the next 60 in each 300 head.....	5	5
For the next 130 in each 300 head.....	2	2
For the next 50 in each 300 head.....	1	1

On cars of 250 head the old rate was \$15.10 and the new rate is \$16.20. An increase of 10 cents per head on all cattle except those weighing over 1200 pounds was allowed. The increase on car loads of 100 hogs amounts to \$3.75 per car.

The Secretary's new order states that the new rates will be in effect until December first, or until cancelled by him, but that they will not be reduced, without hearing, below the scale of 1934.

SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

California Ram Sale, Sacramento, Calif.—May 27-28, 1937

First Annual Inter-Mountain Junior Fat Stock Show, North Salt Lake, Utah—June 8-10, 1937.

A Page With Dr. McClure

Child Labor Amendment

SO much propaganda has been distributed from Washington about the child labor amendment proposed to the Constitution of the United States that it is well that the people know some of the facts about it.

Some years ago, the Supreme Court of this country held that under the constitution, Congress did not have authority to regulate so-called child labor within the states. The authority to do so rested with the different states if they chose to exercise it. It was then proposed by Congress that the Constitution of the United States should be amended, giving the authority to the Federal Government. To that end, Congress by a two-thirds majority of each house submitted a constitutional amendment that must be ratified by at least three-fourths of the states before it becomes effective. To-date about 27 states have passed the amendment. The proposed amendment is as follows:

"The Congress shall have the power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age."

It will readily be seen that under this amendment, the parents lose all power over the work of their offspring, that happens to be under 18 years of age, if Congress desires otherwise. The boy or girl helping with farm work or around the house would be under the direction of the Federal Government. The newsboy, messenger boy, or girl in the telephone office would be under the control of a bureau in Washington. In fact, it has been stated that under a liberal interpretation of this provision the Federal Government might assume authority over the education of children, as is now done in Russia.

The extent of child labor is greatly exaggerated. Statistics seem to indicate that about 10 per cent of our population under 18 years of age are gainfully employed. But these figures include the boys and girls working on the

farms and in the homes. This is a very large number. Of the remainder it is said the majority are working of their own accord, and want to continue. The amount of forced child labor is limited and obtains mostly in eastern and southern states, principally the latter. In several of such states, child labor is regulated by the states. In many instances these young people work under perfect conditions, being supplied with gymnasiums, libraries, and even night schools. Certainly in a country as large as this, there are instances where children are overworked. Few can favor that, but in order to reach such cases, it is not necessary to impose on the entire nation, a program that would be disastrous to all the children of the nation.

It may be argued that if this power is given to Congress, it will exercise it wisely. Congress used to act wisely, but that was when it acted on its own initiative. Anyone who views the laws passed by Congress in the past few years would certainly hate to place their children at their tender mercies. Let us not forget that within three years, congress passed a law that put a Jew in jail for pressing a suit of clothes at .35 cents instead of 45, as the law provided; it passed a law that prohibited a hatchery from setting an egg that weighed less than two ounces; it passed a law that gave a stabilization committee two billion dollars of public money and then provided that no one could ever ask the committee for an accounting; it passed a law that would put a man in jail if under certain conditions he sold more than 5 bushels of potatoes.

In view of the record, either the child labor amendment should be changed to apply to forced labor under certain conditions, or the matter should be left with the states for settlement.

S. W. McClure

[Laws recently upheld by the Supreme Court permit Federal Control of shipments of goods or material, the product of child labor into states not desiring to receive them.

Any state may now pass a law prohibiting the sale of goods produced by people of any age the state decides upon and the Federal government will prohibit the movement of such goods into that state.—Editor.]

Controlling Floods

NOW that we have had another flood in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, the entire nation is being inundated with propaganda about flood control and it is now proposed that five billion dollars be appropriated for this purpose and that the federal government be given jurisdiction over all the lands drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries. The area involved represents 40 per cent of the land areas of the United States and extends from western Montana to western Pennsylvania. The proposed plan would give the federal government right to regulate use of these lands, build dams and electric plants and do about anything else it wanted, including crop control. While intelligent efforts should be made to control these floods as far as may be, the cost of the proposed plan would far exceed the damage done by floods.

These floods are not new or increasing in volume. De Soto discovered the Mississippi River in 1543. He died there and was buried in its waters. The record left by his expedition shows that the river was then at a flood stage higher than has been reached since that time. Indeed there are many reports indicating that early Mississippi floods exceeded those of recent years. All these early floods came before ax or plow had been used in America. An impartial report would show that nothing man has done has contributed to the intensity of these floods. Neither the plowed field nor the cut forest has contributed sufficient water to make any perceptible difference in the crest of these floods. Indeed, most of the area where these floods originate is still timbered or covered with grass.

It must be clear that a river that

drains 40 per cent of the United States and in times of excessive rainfall must deliver all that surplus water to one narrow river at Cairo, Illinois, must experience occasional floods greater than the power of man to control. Originally the Mississippi ranged from a few to 50 miles in width. It went where and when it pleased. Wherever it went it made rich, fertile land—when it filled one hollow with sediment, it changed to a lower one. The Mississippi with its tributaries traveled for thousands of miles through soft clay country, so its waters were always loaded with sediment and as it deposited this, it made states. Its last state was Louisiana—but it is now making another state down in the Gulf. The Mississippi is called the Father of Waters. It should have been called the Father of States. The lower river now carries more sediment to the Gulf than formerly, only because it is confined to a narrow channel and prevented from depositing its load of earth on the surrounding land. The futility of controlling its floods is seen from the following facts:

South of Cairo, in low water times, the river has a flow of about 100,000 cubic feet per second. In flood time this flow may reach 4,000,000 cubic feet per second. Any reservoir or dam that could be built would fill in a few hours. Any system of dams to be effective would need to cover about as much land as the flood does. Flood control dams must be empty when floods come, hence they cannot efficiently develop electric power. When the great flood occurred in 1927, President Coolidge sent a corps of Army engineers to decide what should be done. They determined on a system of double levees. These were built and in the recent flood fully controlled the waters—what they will do in the next one remains to be seen.

This whole subject should be turned over to Army engineers with the assistance of two or three outsiders. Congress should follow their advice. To be effective, this whole subject should be sheared of social nonsense and placed on a sound flood control basis.

S. W. McClure

Trade Agreements Related to Foreign Debts and Argentine Convention

A recent debate in the United States Senate covered matters of foreign debts and reciprocal trade agreements. The proposed Argentine Sanitary Convention was also referred to.

Senator Lewis of Illinois had the floor and was speaking upon Senate Resolution 83 introduced by him. The resolution is as follows:

Whereas the present policy of the United States in international economics is for reciprocal treaties of trade between nations; and

Whereas there exist undischarged and unadjusted debts due to the United States from nations of the world in all exceeding \$12,000,000,000, and with interest and premiums due approaching \$25,000,000,000; and

Whereas European nations indebted in the largest of sums refuse to pay the debt or any portion of it, refuse to pay the interest or any portion of it, and in many instances repudiate the debt and deny the obligation, in other instances refuse to submit any suggestion of adjustment, liquidation or compromise: Therefore be it

Resolved, That no reciprocal trade treaty should be made between the United States of America and any nation which, being a debtor to the United States, refuses to pay the debt or to adjust the same, or which repudiates the debt due the United States.

After referring to military expenditures of Great Britain, France and Italy, and their enjoyment of trade agreements with the United States, either in effect or under negotiation, Senator Lewis said:

"Now, Mr. President, regarding all of these matters, sir, we do not offer one word as to the purely domestic policy of any country. We may deplore, as deplore we ever do, that any land should expend such vast millions in armament and preparation for war, the beginning of which means, sooner or later, sir, threatening with destruction everything in civilization, but I say, sir, in all of this, that in none of these countries, with their vast expenditures, the sums they may expend or those which they are borrowing, is there the slightest pretense of meeting the obligation they have to the United States of America, either to pay a dollar of the indebtedness that is due us or to hold

a conference by which the indebtedness may either be adjusted or in any form whatever liquidated. To the contrary, I cannot overlook the fact that within the past few days there has come from official sources, addressed to this honorable Government, the statement that these countries cannot send and never have intended to send anybody to our midst to take up the debt question; and the distinguished gentlemen who are with us as the representatives of these lands disclaim that they are authorized to touch this question in any form whatever.

* * *

Therefore I come to the definite point of my resolution, that I may not disturb the Senate unnecessarily long. The Government of Argentina, beholding that we had passed some law, in the form, I believe, of a tariff bill, which forbids the cattle of Argentina entering the United States because of what we feel is some infection which would defile if not destroy our own, refuses now, in retaliation, to enter into any trade treaty with the United States of America. With this before us, I have the suggestion to make, if the hope of the able Senator from Arkansas may be fulfilled, a hope that is indulged by us all, that there will be a disposition that will do credit to the creditor as well as honor the debtor. I suggest that one of the methods that will most completely advance it, and I believe speedily and with success, is that we announce that as to any nation which has treated us in the manner described as to its debt and continues to repudiate the debt while it holds us to opprobrium before the world as a nation to collect money that is not our property, and making a demand which takes the form of blackmail upon civilized nations, there shall be no further negotiation touching these trade treaties; that our country will refuse to enter into reciprocity or trade treaties with nations which, obtaining all benefits under such treaties, afford us not only no benefit but disadvantage, great indebtedness,

and, finally, a continuation of a policy toward us of little less than national robbery.

I propose in this resolution that we decline to negotiate trade treaties with the countries which have treated us in this manner, and which continue to do so. I go further and suggest that we continue the policy as to all of these countries regarding these trade treaties so long as they continue their policy of repudiation and injustice to us in the matter of the debts.

* * *

Mr. COPELAND. We spent millions of dollars and destroyed millions of cattle in the United States in an effort to eradicate the foot-and-mouth disease. I think it would be unpatriotic if we should enter into any arrangement with any country which would permit them to ship into the United States any substance which might mean reinfection of our cattle, or might harm in any sense the health of the people and of the animals of the United States.

* * *

Mr. CONNALLY. I heartily concur with the Senator from Idaho, and I expect vigorously to oppose any ratification of the treaty with the Argentine which would make it even remotely possible to reintroduce into the United States the very dangerous and oftentimes fatal foot-and-mouth disease, which in 1914 was prevalent in 24 States of this Union, and which required the expenditure of not only millions of dollars but the killing of entire herds of cattle and the incineration of their bodies in order to stamp out the disease.

As stated by the Senator from Idaho, medical science has never discovered any remedy for this disease, and we do not propose to endanger all of the dairy herds in Wisconsin and the cattle in Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, and, incidentally in Texas, and the great dairy herds in New York State, in order to get two bits' worth of trade, while endangering the whole cattle industry of the United States.

I thank the Senator from Illinois for yielding to me.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. President, I appreciate the contribution of the Senator



A KALISPELL WOOL DISPLAY

Mr. Ernest White, the enterprising Columbia breeder of Kalispell, Montana, was responsible for this display of wool trophies, woolen goods, and a Columbia fleece in the clothing store of Robbin and Robbin. The exhibit stood upon a Paisley shawl bought in California in 1849 and still in good shape. The left and center cups are Webb trophies, and the one on the right, the Silberman trophy, all won by Mr. White who says: "Several papers carried articles on this window, and I think that the public was a little more wool-minded. Scores of people went in and remarked about it. You would be surprised at the number of people who have never seen a fleece of wool."

The 32-pound fleece shown in the cut was the twelve months' growth of one of Mr. White's Columbia rams.

from Texas upon the matter of disease of cattle. I am not so well learned on that subject as are many Senators who have risen to speak on this phase. I recognize the necessity for legitimate protection of the United States, but what I fear is not that these nations will inject this cattle controversy, not that they will do something that converts us to cattle, but it is their treating us as asses that causes me serious concern.

Argentine Convention Opposed by Oregon Legislature

THE following resolution, recently adopted by both branches of the Oregon legislature, was printed in the Congressional Record of February 19:

Senate Joint Memorial 4

Whereas it appears that there is an attempt to secure a ratification of the Argentine Sanitary Convention; and

Whereas any attempt to raise the embargo on animal products from Argentina, or any province thereof, would subject the livestock and game of the United States to a constant menace of foot-and-mouth disease; and

Whereas past experience shows that foot-and-mouth disease has caused millions of dollars' damage and depletion of livestock and game and has caused great economic loss: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon (the House of Representatives jointly concurring therein), That we, your memorialists, respectfully petition the Senate of the United States to refrain from the ratification of the Argentine Sanitary Convention and urge that the present embargo against every country where the foot-and-mouth disease is known to exist be maintained in order that there shall be no experimentation at the expense of the health and safety of our livestock and wild animals; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to both Houses of Congress of the United States and to each member thereof from this State, to the Secretary of Agriculture, and to each house of the legislative assembly of those States whose legislatures now are in session.

April and Wool

APRIL always is a critical month in connection with wool marketing. This year it seems to be especially that way. So much wool has been contracted, and prices are so much better than they have been during most of the time for several years, that there has been some nervousness on the part of owners of clips unsold or not contracted.

By comparison with prices of recent years, present values do look high. But they are not out of line with price levels and trends of commodities in general. Neither does wool look unduly or dangerously high when measured against wool growers' date of expense during recent months or against interest and principal payments that still seriously encumber most sheep outfits. Also, the rapidly rising expense of supplying sheep camps and the wage demands of employees show the need for a new level of wool prices.

There can be no question on the fact that the rise in wool is a sound one, based on supply and a continuing consumer demand. That demand was absent for such a long time that some growers gave up hopes of seeing the return of a price consistent with the expense and effort required to produce wool.

If this sort of psychology has afflicted sheepmen, they have only been like most other citizens engaged in the production of the essentials of life. The tide has turned. Regardless of whether government plans and activities hastened or retarded the return, it had to come. It is not surprising that some individuals have difficulty in realizing that economic law has asserted itself, and feel that the present wave is poorly founded or likely to be of short duration. Its permanency is equal to that of improved conditions in numerous other commodity fields. It depends upon general business and financial conditions.

The state of government finances and the recent queeriness in the market for government bonds must, of

course, cause concern. It is not apparent that these suggest an early reverse. Everyone expects that unless these affairs are improved, financial difficulties must again return, but that does not seem to be in the immediate future. It is possible and not improbable that the federal budget will achieve a sounder basis before the exhaustion of the buying wave that was compelled by six years of restricted purchases of essentials such as woolen clothing.

Again, and as always is the case in April, the level of wool prices depends upon the attitude of range wool growers. Mr. Fawcett's report of the present market, printed in this issue, states that supplies of domestic wools available at Boston are insufficient to allow reliable price quotations. Foreign markets are strong, and the mills are booked up with orders that require far more than their present stocks. For once in a long while, the situation is in the control of the growers.

No one can ever be justly criticized for accepting a profitable price. It is not the object of these remarks to boost prices or predict the future, but simply to offset any feeling that the price of wool is now retarding consumption, or that it is not founded on world commercial conditions.

Forward buying of wools and the contracting of unshorn clips is caused by the judgment of highly competent and successful merchants that such buying forestalls the necessity of their paying more later on. That judgment may perhaps be wrong. The trade has made mistakes in the past. But the trade's mistakes in buying have been very infrequent in comparison with growers' mistakes in selling.

Growers played their hand well with the 1936 clip. One year ago there was marked inactivity in buying in the face of heavy consumer demand for goods and with wool in a strong statistical position. Growers were not stampeded and later received prices fairly consistent with that statistical position of their product. Now that all commodities have advanced further,

there is full justification for exercise of the same policy that was successful last year.

Last year's results were highly satisfactory to those who consigned wool for sale at the market. It is not to be expected that next December prices will be so much above those of April as was the case last year, but if inflation comes, just that thing can happen. Neither is there any basis now apparent for expecting prices of next fall to be lower than at present.

A few years of decent wool prices might establish the advantages of consignment in good times. Until now, consignment has mainly been used as a last resort when sales could not be made. The great bulk of consigned wools during the last ten years has been sold on bad markets. There is no reason why the advantages of selling in good times on a sound commission basis cannot bring extra returns in excess of the commission charges. Certainly, under stable conditions, producers of better clips stand to gain by having their wools properly prepared and taken by the mill buyer. Contracting and, to a large extent, country buying are a matter of operating on averages. On a steady or rising market, owners of better clips often are ready to accept the going prices when they are in fact entitled to several cents more and could obtain it on the same market level if their wools were sold by competent agents to the mill buyers at the same market level that prevailed for the contracting or country selling.

No, the present wool situation is not unjustified or necessarily a temporary one. It should last as long as the present general business conditions and prices of other commodities. There can be no guarantee as to what the future will bring, but there does not seem to be any good reason for undue haste to secure a price for wool which buying experts plainly expect to see exceeded before they make resales, or at least to be maintained until country purchases are sold to the mills.



San Joaquin Valley Lambs Cut Out for March Shipment

The California Lamb Crop

THE California lamb crop has come to receive the attention of the entire country in recent years. The state produces the country's largest crop of early lambs. While ranking fourth in number of ewes, California is exceeded in its number of lambs only by Texas.

Last year, the total lamb crop was 2,225,000 of which 1,670,000 was classified as "early". Of these, 531,000 were shipped out of the state, and 740,000 were slaughtered by June for consumption at home.

The earliest part of the early crop is produced in the San Joaquin Valley, where lambing frequently starts in November. The later part of the early crop comes from the lower part of the Sacramento Valley. San Joaquin lambs of this year's crop have practically all been contracted at from 9.5 cents to 11 cents, the latter price prevailing at the close of the buying. A large part of these are taken by the four large packer concerns. An advance shipment of 76-pound California lambs slaughtered at Chicago for the Easter trade dressed 47 per cent on California weights.

The following discussion of the 1937 California crop and the customary marketing of the states production is by George A. Scott and E. E. Kaufman of the California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service.

During the four month period March to June, inclusive, California producers normally market from 1,100,000 to 1,200,000 early lambs. More than half of these

are consumed within the state, the balance being disposed of mainly through midwest and eastern outlets. There is considerably variation in the volume of lambs that are moved east, as well as great irregularities in the time of shipment, when the records of movements are broken down into 10-day periods. On the average, about 73 per cent of the eastward lamb movement takes place between April 21 and May 20 and in most years the peak movement occurs during the second decade of May.

The time and rapidity of eastbound shipments and to some extent the volume of shipments are largely determined by the amount of distribution of seasonal rainfall, native pasture conditions during the winter and spring months, prices and demand for lambs, and by available numbers of early lambs produced in the state. Most early lambs not disposed of by late June are shorn and fattened for later local marketing.

Eastward shipments of live early lambs from California in 1935 were the largest for any season, but were practically equalled by the combined movements of live and dressed lambs in 1929. Very favorable feed and market conditions in 1935 resulted in a thorough "clean-up" of early lambs before June 20. In 1936 the eastward shipments were somewhat lower than in 1935, mainly due to the fact that in 1936 large numbers of lambs did not attain desirable market weight in time to move east, and were later marketed locally.

Preliminary surveys indicate that the 1937 early lamb crop in California is approximately 15 per cent less than that of 1936. The smaller crop is accounted for by the extremely unfavorable winter feed and weather conditions which were most acute in the Sacramento Valley, the Bay area, Coastal Range and foothill sections. Practically no green feed was available in the

California Early Lambs—Numbers and Disappearance By Years

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total Ewes Jan. 1 (1)	Lamb Crops % (2) Number Docked Raised		Early Lambs (3) Apprx. Numbers	California Slaughter (4) March-June	Shipments (5) out of state Live Dressed	
1928.....	2260	95	2034	1385	510	394	61
1929.....	2450	88	2060	1442	530	530	58
1930.....	2580	86	2090	1463	572	496	23
1931.....	2673	90	2272	1590	788	475	68
1932.....	2600	81	2002	1500	758	464	25
1933.....	2490	78	1843	1365	683	468	12
1934.....	2340	89	1989	1395	571	450	1
1935.....	2500	88	2100	1555	637	590	5
1936.....	2784	84	2255	1670	740	515	16
1937.....	2910	---	---	---	---	---	---

(1) Estimated total ewes of breeding age in the state, including those in late areas.

(2) These cover the total lamb crops, both early and late.

(3) Include "intermediate" lambs—those normally marketed in July and August.

(4) Covers inspected slaughter of lambs and sheep of California origin only, for four-month period; inspected slaughter covers all but 6 to 8% of total in the State.

(5) Covers all out-movements including to Northwestern Markets.

northern half of the state before late February, and owners were compelled to feed ewes and lambs for many weeks during the winter. Losses of lambs were large in many instances where these conditions prevailed, while ewe losses were also much above normal. Many lambs in these sections were badly set back. The degree of recovery that stunted lambs will make is problematical, and depends to some extent upon pasturage conditions from now on, but most growers are of the opinion that many of these lambs will develop into desirable market stock. It is also evident that marketing of lambs from these areas will be much delayed.

In the important central and south San Joaquin sections and in Southern California the 1937 early lamb crop is more nearly normal. Development of lambs there was delayed somewhat by insufficient green feed during winter months, but losses have not been excessive and the extent of injury has been much less than among lambs further north. If the present favorable feed situation continues for a few more weeks in these districts lambs should attain normal weight and finish and will move only a little later than average. In the late part of March new pasturage has made extremely rapid growth under the stimulation of warm weather and additional rainfall. Seasonal precipitation is much above normal in the southern half of the state, and with average spring rainfall should result in excellent feed conditions there during the spring.

Farther north in the Sacramento Valley and contiguous areas the development of new feed is so late that the period of favorable grazing will be shorter than usual. Pasturage here should be good during the latter half of March and up until May 15 provided weather factors are favorable.

It is impossible in any season to accurately forecast the volume of early lambs which will be shipped east, and uncertain factors are more in evidence this season than usual. However, it is obvious that eastern shipments will be delayed, and in view of the reduced crop in the state it is expected that total eastward shipments will fall considerably short of the 1936 movement. There will be a few shipments east during March originating in the San Joaquin Valley, but the volume of shipments will not attain importance until after April 15. Shipments of lambs out of the Sacramento Valley territory will be delayed as late as feed conditions permit which may mean a fairly heavy movement after May 15.

Taylor District Affairs

ON April 5, Secretary Ickes announced that he had approved, as effective on that day, the restoration of the former priority rules in Colorado Districts 3, 4 and 6.

The local boards of most of the Colorado Taylor Grazing Districts had established a rule requiring two years' consecutive use of the range since 1929 as meeting the priority requirements for class one permittees and in accordance with section 3 of the law. Other districts in Colorado and other states had established rules varying from 1 to 3 or 4 years.

On January 28, there was promulgated from Washington, effective on that date, a rule for general application which limited priority requirements to one year's use since 1929. This announcement created little less than consternation in many sections. It plainly meant the admission of a very large number of new stockmen, many of whom had no standing in connection with the use of the range that could be considered as anything other than transient, if not nomadic.

The January 28 ruling, however, carried a proviso under which, on proper showing of the supervisor of the district and special approval of the Secretary of the Interior, the one-year priority rule might be suspended. That is the action that has now been taken for the three Colorado districts mentioned. This action, however, applies only in connection with the issuance of grazing permits for the season of 1937-38. What may develop thereafter remains to be seen.

Another important ruling recently announced by the Department of the Interior at Washington concerns the status of government-purchased lands in connection with licenses or permits for grazing on Taylor Districts. This ruling concerns any private lands within grazing districts purchased by the government for use of the Indians or for resettlement administration purposes. It provides that in connection with such lands, any priority or commensur-

ability that may have been attached to them prior to their sale to the government still exists. This action is to be recognized whether the acquired lands are operated by the Indian Service or under the direction of the Resettlement Administration. Any such lands assigned by either of these administrative bodies to individuals or groups would retain any rights or claims attaching to them that might entitle them to admission on other lands of Taylor Grazing Districts. It is not possible to say at present just how far-reaching this decision may be, but it will be of peculiar interest and importance in many localities.

The Livingston Appeal

The appeal of Joseph Livingston from the rulings of the grazing board of Taylor District No. 6 in Colorado is of unusual interest. The features of this case make it very important as representative of the relationship of the various grazing boards to the final administrative authorities at Washington.

Under date of March 29, Secretary Ickes dismissed the appeal of Livingston from the action of the board which had denied him a permit for the season of 1936 and 1937. As representing the Washington attitude toward action of grazing boards in such matters, it is worthwhile to recount in a little detail some phases of the Livingston case.

Colorado District No. 6 was established on July 11, 1935. In 1933 Livingston, a former Utah sheepman, had acquired land holdings in that neighborhood. Within a year after March, 1934, his ownings had reached a total of 11,000 acres. Claiming dependency and commensurability for these lands, he applied for a grazing license for 9,000 sheep for the season 1935-36. The license was refused by the local board, but no action was taken to remove Livingston's stock from the range, where they remained during that season.

Early in 1936 when applications were being received for the grazing season of

1936-37, Livingston renewed his application, which was again rejected by the local board. Appeal was taken to the Director of Grazing, and hearings held for several days. In the course of these hearings, other licensees in the district testified that Livingston had not established priority in accordance with the two-year rule then in effect. It was also claimed that his slight previous use of the range did not entitle him to be recognized as having established himself in accordance with "local custom recognized and acknowledged."

In September last, Director Carpenter sustained the action of the local board. Livingston's lawyers took the appeal to the Secretary of the Interior and his decision bears the date of March 29. Secretary Ickes' decision is critical of the local board's action in having found that Livingston's use was not in accordance with recognized and acknowledged local custom. The Secretary also found that four of the Livingston properties totaling some seven or eight thousand acres to be properly classified as dependent or commensurate. He thereupon ordered the issuance of a permit for the present season for the number represented by those properties and dismissed the appeal.

At first sight, the decision appears to mean the ignoring of the two-year priority rule, or else a complete reversal of the local board. However, such is not altogether the fact. At the time of the Secretary's decision, March 29, the one-year priority rule was in effect. Livingston had some form of priority in connection with some of the properties. Apparently the Secretary recognized this to the extent of issuing a permit for the present season, of which only 30 days remained at the time of the decision.

Subsequent to the decision of March 29, the Secretary approved the two-year priority rule for this and other districts for the grazing season of 1937-38. As the facts now stand, it would appear that Livingston's priority will not entitle him to a license for next season, if the Secretary is to sustain the board in its adherence to the two-year priority rule now approved by

him. It is probable that Livingston will again apply for permit for a license for next season and that further appeals will be taken. As matters now stand, it is difficult to see how the Secretary could allow Livingston a license for next season. It is unfortunate that the matter has dragged out so long without decisive action, especially as his case seemed to be a fair test of matters and conditions which are continuously arising in many districts.

On page 5 of the March issue of the National Wool Grower, it was stated that the Secretary of the Interior had approved the restoration of the two-year priority rule for Colorado District No. 6. This was a mistake, as the official order for the restoration of that rule in that district was not promulgated until April 5.

The Denver Market

THE fat lamb market advanced around \$1 per hundred weight in March over the February closing price. Fat ewes closed unevenly \$1 to \$1.25 higher while feeder lambs showed approximately \$1 advance.

Receipts for the month totaled approximately 209,000 head compared to 206,000 during the same month a year ago. For the first three months of this year total receipts were 589,000 head compared to 502,000 head received during the same period of 1936.

Colorado fed lambs were selling around \$11 (freight paid to river) early in March. Later they went to \$12 and at the high point one carload brought \$13 with others at \$12.95. At the close of the month, \$12.50 was taking the best with only a few above \$12 and western lambs between \$11.50 and \$12, these having further freight billing available.

March brought the first spring lambs of the season with several loads of Californias at \$13.25. Native spring lambs went from \$12.50 to \$13.50.

A few loads of range feeder lambs sold late in the month from \$10 to \$11. At the beginning of the month they went mostly from \$8.25 to \$9.10.

Choice ewes went from \$6 to \$7 while at the high time the best brought

New Record Lamb Price



A world record of \$10.25 per pound was paid for the grand champion lamb at the Interstate Junior Show at San Francisco on March 25. The sale price and premiums amounted to \$870. The lamb weighed 80 pounds.

Don Bullington of the California Polytechnic School at San Luis Obispo, who holds the lamb, was the breeder and exhibitor. This lamb was dropped December 14, 1936, and was sired by a Southdown ram bred by the University of California and out of a Hampshire ewe bred by A. T. Spencer.

Bullington exhibited in the Advanced Division. He also showed the champion pen of 3 lambs in the Advanced Division and was awarded the prize for showmanship over all competitors.

\$7 to \$7.25. Yearling ewes sold up to \$7.75.

Of the March receipts 166,000 came from Colorado, 18,600 from Utah, 15,800 from Idaho, 6,900 from Wyoming and 2,300 from California. This is about the same number received a year ago from Wyoming and California but shows an increase of 18,000 from Utah.

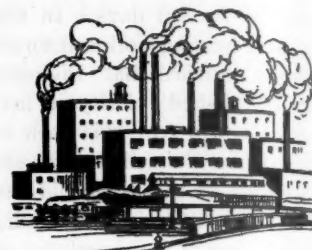
During the month 66,000 fat lambs went from Denver to Atlantic coast packers while around 20,000 were purchased here for interior packers.

Denver sheep and lamb slaughter has increased materially this year over last. In March 42,000 head were killed here, or 40 per cent increase over a year ago.

W. N. Fulton

National Wool Marketing Corporation

News Bulletin



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GROWER OWNED AND OPERATED

The Wool Market

THE month of March has been featured by strengthening of wool markets the world over. The market has regained practically all the loss sustained in February and is now pitched about where it was on January 15, which is frequently cited as the market peak.

The consumption of wool continues at a very high rate with no indication of abatement for months to come. It is generally thought that manufacturers have sufficient orders on the books to run them well into the mid-summer season. Substantial orders on the part of the government have been placed for blankets and other types of yardage for delivery over the next ten months. This has been an important factor contributing to the lift in values. Much speculation is prevalent as to whether manufacturers securing these government contracts are covered on their raw material requirements. In view of the fact that the bulk of these orders will be delivered throughout the next ten months, it can hardly be expected that they are covered on their raw material requirements. These orders, and future orders to be placed by the government, may well be the back-log of the wool trade for months to come.

Insufficient amounts of spot domestic wool are available in Boston to make a quotable market. A few lots have been sold at the top side of the market to manufacturers requiring a limited amount of domestic wool for piecing out in their blends. These wools have fetched, in the original bag, \$1.00 to \$1.05, according to the quality. Graded territory wools, if available, would doubtless command slightly higher values. Some of the newly shorn Arizona wools are arriving and have been sold in the neighborhood of \$1.00@1.03. Surely some of the choicer, lighter wools have brought slightly above this figure.

A limited amount of business has been transacted in early shorn fleeces in Ohio, Michigan and New York. A few cars were secured by manufacturers at 43 cents, landed

Boston, for quarter and three-eighths grades, including not to exceed 20 per cent half-blood. In the last few days it has not been possible to secure wools for this price and 45 cents for similar wools has been freely paid. Shearing has been delayed on account of severe storms all through the mid-west.

Foreign markets are all against the buyer. Bradford topmakers, in a few instances, have refused to make future commitments due to the relative scarcity of wool. Only a few thousand bales are left in Australia to be sold from this season's clip. No more will be available until they shear next October. It is estimated that 71,000,000 pounds of foreign wool has arrived at the Port of Boston since January 1. We are just now finding out that 70 per cent of this wool has already been withdrawn from bond, which indicates it is going into immediate consumption. This factor has caused surprise on the part of most everyone interested in wool and is one more indication that wool is scarce the world over. This would seem to place the remaining unsold portion of the 1937 clip in a very strong position.

Efforts to contract the remaining portion of the 1937 clip on the sheep's back are now being made. There can be only one of two reasons for contracting on the sheep's back: First—the thought that they are getting the wool at less cost than would be possible at shearing time and, second—bare lofts and the need for immediate raw material. Either of these arguments would seem to properly apply as factors favoring consignment and sale in the fall. In other words, if it pays the dealers to contract on the sheep's back and hold the wool until the market develops in the fall, it would certainly pay the growers to do likewise. Adequate finances are now available to make this possible through the growers' own selling agency, the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

C. J. Fawcett

Why the National Says: "Consign your Wool In 1937"

IT'S wool shearing time in the West and with it comes your problem, that of marketing your wool to the best advantage. Should you sell your wool now? Hold it on your ranch or in a local warehouse for later market? Or should you consign it to be sold direct to the mill at the most opportune time by your own wool marketing agency?

The National Wool Marketing Corporation, which not only is grower-owned-and-controlled, but is the largest consignment house in the country, advocates consigning your wool and selling it direct to the mill. True, the local wool market looks high, but the records show that over the last 14 years it is high only in comparison with the low markets. From January of 1924 to March of 1929, we were selling wool as high or higher than we are today. In the meantime, the price level of all commodities have advanced. General business conditions have improved. The outlook for the late fall and winter market this year is very bright.

The crying need of our wool market this year, as well as in other years, is feeding the wool to market in line with the manufacturers' demand, which is determined by the consumers' purchasing power and desires. Trying to market the major portion of our clip in two months is an impossible job if we

would maintain or strengthen values, since the majority of mills work more or less on a hand-to-mouth basis. If we can effect an even distribution of our wool sales throughout the year we have solved one of our biggest problems. Besides, figures taken over any period of years show that during the spring months when our marketable supply is the greatest the average mill consumption of apparel wools is the lowest.

Through your cooperative there are already the warehouse facilities where the wool can be stored, and ample finances so that liberal advances can be made at the time of shearing.

Then, too, you can effect economies that result from an orderly marketing program. Your wool is handled at actual cost with the profits either distributed back to the grower or placed to your credit in the surplus of your organization. It eliminates buyers, sub-buyers' commissions, and speculative margins.

Cooperative marketing gives you the advantage of selling your wool according to grade, by experienced salesmen who know more nearly the actual value of the clip—value that is determined by the class, grade of wool, and its shrinkage.

Through cooperative marketing you obtain greater bargaining power for your products. The volume alone attracts buyers. Add to this volume a reputation for reliability, a good record for the maintenance of quality, and you

find the reason why your cooperative has bargaining power and can do a better job in the selling of your wool. These advantages all come from supporting a marketing system that is ready to serve the grower year after year, whether markets are high or low.

"But, has it paid?" you ask. "Is the grower who has supported his cooperative actually better off financially?" Figures over the last five years show that he is. Below is a chart covering the period 1932 to 1936 that is worthy of study. You will notice that over the five-year period it has paid in dollars and cents four years out of five. The grower who has marketed his wool consistently through the National over the five-year period has received $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound above the price paid in the country. In 1936, you will note, the difference was 3.7 cents in the territory states.

In addition, wool stored at Boston is available to the mills; most of whom insist on seeing the wool before they purchase it, or are willing to pay more for the wool if they can see it.

There is also the advantage that when wool is consigned and in the hands of the National or its member-agencies, it is fully insured against fire and theft.

These are about a few of the reasons why we say "Consign your Wool" to be sold by your own agency at Boston, if you would increase your share of what the mills are willing to pay in 1937 for your wool.

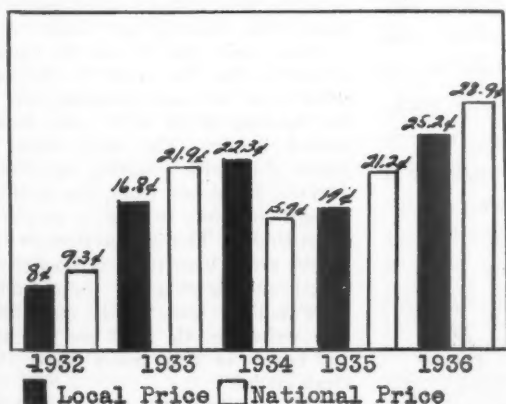


Chart showing net prices received by shippers to National Wool Marketing Corporation in Territory States compared with local prices.



One of the Warehouses of the National capable of holding over 25 million pounds.

Wool Imports and their Origin

AMERICAN imports of various classes of wool and of mohair along with the principal exporting countries. during 1936 are shown in the table,

ORIGIN OF IMPORTS	Carpet Wool Pounds	Clothing Wool Pounds	Combing Wool Pounds	Mohair, Alpaca, Etc., Pounds
Origin of Imports	169,229,000	8,599,000	76,160,000	3,736,000
France	2,046,000			
Ireland	1,632,000			
Great Britain	20,825,000	1,345,000	3,178,000	22,683
Argentina	52,848,000	1,314,000	5,584,000	
Uruguay	2,612,000	859,000	19,164,000	
Canada		571,000	3,387,000	
Peru				1,935,000
British India	18,724,000			
China	27,347,000			
Iraq	5,077,000			
Syria	7,095,000			
Australia	739,000	1,172,000	29,899,000	
New Zealand	12,477,000	1,344,000	4,679,000	
South Africa		491,000	3,176,000	1,046,000
Egypt	4,594,000			

High Wool Consumption in February

WEIGHT of wool used by American clothing manufacturers was 41,940,000 pounds in February, 1937. This was reported on March 31 by the Bureau of Census of the United States Department of Commerce.

The figures which appear first below do not include packers' pulled wools. They represent the equivalent weight on a greasy basis of all wools used for manufacture of "apparel goods." Carpet wools are excluded.

It will be seen that since last July, 292,721,000 pounds of domestic wool has been used for clothing purposes. This means that more than three quarters of the home-grown supply was used up in 8 months. A good deal of early shorn wools of the 1936 clip went into consumption before July, 1936.

The scarcity of home-grown wools has compelled greater use of imported supplies. The table shows that the use of imported wools has increased in recent months as domestic supplies have been depleted. The table shows eight months use of 4 million pounds of duty free wool for apparel purposes. The tariff act of 1930 provided that wools of the carpet class, and camels' hair may be imported at less than the regular duties. It was also provided that such wools would be free of duty if actually used for carpet purposes, press cloth, camels' hair belting "or in the manufacture of knit or felt boots or heavy fulled lumbermen's socks." The figures seem to show that 4 million pounds of imported wool have been used since last July in knit or felt boots and lumbermen's socks. The Bureau of Customs has been requested to ascertain the actual use of such wool for those purposes.

Rate of Consumption of Shorn Wool for Apparel

	WEEKLY AVERAGE			Total July to February
	February, 1937	January, 1937	July, 1936 to February, 1937	
Total for Apparel	10,485,000	10,024,000	10,346,000	362,094,000
Domestic	6,287,000	7,308,000	8,364,000	292,721,000
Foreign Duty Paid	4,089,000	2,582,000	1,865,000	65,283,000
Foreign Duty Free	109,000	134,000	117,000	4,090,000

A Wyoming View of the Wool Situation

BECAUSE of the special importance in April in giving growers the best information and opinion on the wool market, we print here the report of Dean J. A. Hill, prepared for the March 31 issue of the Wyoming Wool Grower. This is in addition to the customary report by C. J. Fawcett appearing in the regular section assigned to the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

Dean Hill, through his work at the University of Wyoming, has long been known as a practical student of wool affairs and a keen analyst of conditions and trends in foreign and domestic wool markets.

The domestic wool market is distinctly on the up-grade at the present time. This is in marked contrast with the situation at this time last year, when the peak of winter prices had just been passed and wool started into a decline which carried it down about 3 cents a pound on the grease basis to the low point in May.

The signs of recovery had already been showing themselves on some classes of wool in the United States two weeks ago. This improvement in prices has spread throughout the market, although the gain has been very conservative in territory wool.

The important fact just now is that there is a growing interest by the buyers and a distinct upward tendency in the producing regions, where the domestic prices are actually made at this time of year. That is, sometimes in the past the market has been led into a distinct slump unwarranted by world conditions when the growers, especially the farmers in the middle west, began selling freely at constant falling prices. So it is always a hopeful sign when prices tend to work upward in the producing regions when shearing gets under way.

Two weeks ago it was the opinion of observers that fine wool in Arizona and other areas of early shearing was selling on the basis of 93 to 95 cents clean basis landed Boston. The most recent report states that with shearing spreading into Nevada, Idaho, and Utah, fine wool is being bought at prices to mean a cost of \$1.00 clean landed. This is equivalent to 32 cents on the grease basis for fine wool of average length and shrinkage at the shearing pens in Wyoming. Some of the more conservative writers in the East are still advising the buyers to keep prices below 95 cents clean landed.

The news from the foreign markets adds greatly to the confidence of the buyers in this country. The sales in the Southern Hemisphere are drawing to an end with

prices gaining. In Australia $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent gain was reported in one week in the sales there, and a gain of nearly 2 cents a pound on the grease was reported from New Zealand. The situation is very clearly shown by that barometer of the foreign markets, the quotations for tops in Bradford, England. Week before last fine tops gained 3 to 4 cents a pound, and all grades made gains, so that the quotations for all grades are now higher than at the previous peak last January. Business is good in Bradford, and the Daily News Record of New York recently carried a cablegram stating that conditions were better over there than they had been for many months.

The domestic market does not have to depend alone upon support from abroad. The goods market is distinctly improved. The men's wear mills are reported to have enough orders in sight to keep them operating for more than four months, and the women's wear mills for more than two months. After the present buying season got under way, prices were marked up, and orders continued to be taken. Clothing manufacturers who have orders with the mills are urging early delivery, so that the demand for wool on the spot in Boston is still very healthy.

The large importations of foreign wool threatened to be a drag on the market a few weeks ago and suggested the possibility of an undigested supply when the early shorn domestic wools began to arrive. Now the advance abroad has put the middlemen who are owners of foreign wool into an excellent position. If the manufacturers do not want these wools, they can be withdrawn from bond and re-exported at a profit. The result was that last week there was quite a movement of fine Australian wools at firm prices.

The weak spot at this time of year is often in the farm states. However, the reports indicate that the early shorn wools from these states are being held at full market value. In a medium-sized pool in West Virginia, 48.81 cents was paid for the quarter and three-eighths blood merchantable, meaning that only standard quality would be accepted at that price. The rejects and inferior types would be sold at a lower price. Other reports indicate from the West indicate that the farmers are demanding and getting the full Boston parity based on the usual margin for handling. Sales of medium wool from Idaho have been reported at 35 cents to $36\frac{1}{2}$ cents, which appears to be as high as the peak reached during the contracting boom in January.

Although everything seems to be favorable now for slightly higher prices, it must be remembered that the real test of the domestic market generally comes in April and May, when shearing is going on everywhere and the wool growers are all anxious to sell their wool for cash. No matter what the general outlook may be, the danger of a temporary slump has not entirely disappeared. This may be prevented, however,

by the short supplies and the general speculative feeling which is spreading, based on the idea that we are at last in the beginning of a real inflation which will be characterized by a rising spiral of prices.

The U. S. Bureau of the Census has made the final report on the estimated consumption of wool in 1936. The total consumption of apparel class wool computed on the basis of the grease equivalent of sheared wool was 618 million pounds. In comparing consumption with production, this figure should be used instead of the 626 million pounds obtained from another source and used in this letter two weeks ago. The excess of consumption over production now stands at 158 million pounds.

Although the domestic consumption may appear to be so far behind production that there is no possibility of increasing sheep numbers to the place where they produce more wool than is consumed annually by the mills of this country, it must not be forgotten that the 460 million pounds produced last year exceeded the reported consumption of three years out of the last seven. The consumption was 383 million pounds in 1934, 440 million in 1932, and 488 million in 1930. This makes it clear that the fluctuating demand rather than the changes in the supply is the important variable in the wool market. One reason for strong foreign markets during recent months is purchase of large quantities by the United States to make up the deficiency here.

The price of spot tops on the New York Top Exchange gained 3 cents and now stands at \$1.23.

Wool Exchange Building at Ogden

A new wool storage and sales building is being erected at Ogden, Utah, by Merriam and Wilkins. This firm has conducted wool auctions at Ogden during the last three years, making use of the Coliseum building at the stockyards for storage, grading, and selling of the wools handled. Last year, a similar wool auction was conducted at Denver by the same concern.

The new wool exchange building is to have a storage capacity for 8 million pounds of wool and has a floor area of one and one half acres. The building is to be fireproof and will be arranged to permit loading of five railroad cars at one time. Separate rooms will be provided for grading and for displaying sample lots under a specially constructed roof to afford favorable and uniform light conditions. Completion by May 15 is expected.

Recent Wool Selling

COUNTRY buying of wool has again been active during the past three weeks. There was a let-down early in March when, because of lower prices on top futures, and expected labor troubles, the buyers held out for a time.

In Arizona and early shearing sections of Idaho there was no let-up in taking wools ready for delivery although for a time the prices were not equal to those paid earlier on contracted clips. Market improvement restored former prices and also caused renewal of contracting for late shorn clips.

Early in April 33 and $\frac{5}{8}$ cents was paid on a contract for 18,000 fleeces in Nevada.

As high as 35 cents was paid on contracts made in Western Wyoming.

From 30 to 32 cents was paid in the vicinity of Stockton, California. A number of Sacramento Valley clips were taken at 40 cents. These were rated to shrink under 60 per cent.

In Idaho, half a million pounds were sold during the last 10 days of April at from 34 to 37.5 cents.

As high as 35 cents is being paid in Utah. Contracting and buying of shorn wools started a few weeks ago at 32 cents.

The following quotations are taken from a radio report of the March wool market by Russell L. Burrus, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at Boston:

Graded French combing length fine territory wools brought around \$1.06; scoured basis. The grease equivalent prices of these wools in Boston would be around $42\frac{1}{2}$ cents for light wools shrinking as little as 60 per cent, around 36 cents for average wools shrinking 66 per cent, or around 32 cents for heavy wools shrinking 70 per cent.

Graded French combing length one half blood territory wools were sold at around \$1.02-1.03, scoured basis. The grease equivalent Boston prices of such wools at this scoured basis range would be around 44 cents for light wools, shrinking 57 per cent, around 40 cents for average wools shrinking 61 per cent and around 34 cents for heavy wools shrinking 67 per cent.

Medium grade territory wools were slow. The average of nominal quotations on comb-

(Continued on page 24)

Around the Range Country

WYOMING

Seasonal to mild temperatures prevailed, and there were frequent rains and snows of beneficial proportions, leaving the eastern portion especially, in fairly good shape for spring. A few losses of young and very old livestock occurred, but as a rule livestock have done very well, though there was a considerable amount of feeding. The moisture situation is the best in several years in northeastern counties. Meadows and ranges are greening in some eastern sections, but are not furnishing much forage.

Cheyenne

Our range feed is fair to poor with enough moisture to start green grass should we get some warm days, March 26.

The death loss in our flocks has been about average this winter.

The cost of producing lambs and wool this year will be considerably more than last year.

Coyotes are about the same.

I believe the average livestock grower is probably in a better condition today, both from a point of credit and finances.

Warren Livestock Co.

Sundance

A major portion of Crook County is still laying deep in snow, March 1. Feeding is still being done; very little feed was raised last summer, all must be shipped in at high prices. This is the worst year that I have seen in all my ranching experience. The grasshoppers cleared all the grass and most of the sagebrush. All the sheep that were held over are getting some feed, but the number is much smaller than usual.

There is no alfalfa hay for sale here. It is all brought in mostly from Torrington, Wyoming, and Scottsbluff, Nebraska, the price running from \$17 to \$20 per ton. Baled hay can be bought at Torrington for \$10 to \$12. Truckers want \$5 a ton for bringing it up.

The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in *Around the Range Country*, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of March.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

The number of ewes bred to lamb has been considerably reduced. I would place it at 25 per cent. The winter losses up to date have been light, but the long, cold period has hurt the sheep. They are in a very bad condition to stand bad spring storms.

Herders' wages have advanced about \$10 per month, and others in proportion.

The local banks are charging 7 to 8 per cent. P.C.A. banks seem to have plenty of money which they are willing to loan on good security, and are extending their loans to sheepmen as fast as conditions will justify it.

The cost of supplies has raised at least 40 per cent. The coyotes are increasing at rapid rate in spite of hunter-trappers hired by the county, and are becoming a real menace to the sheep business; and unless some more efficient method of controlling them is devised, a great many sheep men will be compelled to go out of the business. I am in favor of a good bounty on predatory animals.

There has been a few forced liquidations of sheepmen by their creditors. More of them have closed out early, rather than take the risk. The rest of us are staying at a very heavy cost.

Charles K. Tutty

Worland

Feed on the range in this locality is fair with green grass getting a good start as we have had more rain and snow the past month than we have had the past year (March 22).

Death loss is light, as there has been fair range feed and plenty of hay, grain and pasture in this Basin country.

Most 1937 wool has been contracted at 28 to 32 cents.

Shed lambing is in full swing, with sheepmen making a good 95 to 100 per cent.

Expenses will be higher as wagon supplies, range leases and shearing will be higher than in 1936.

Coyotes are plentiful and bolder than ever before.

Most sheepmen are asking for individual allotments under the Taylor Grazing Act, 4 to 7 acres, depending on range being allowed per head for grazing season on public domain.

Charles Wells

By Carl W. Hampton

MONTANA

Unseasonably cold weather during the last half of the month, checking vegetation growth where it was starting from the earlier warmth. Light to moderate snow falls occurred, but there was not a great deal of moisture. Melting snows have saturated only the surface of the valley soils. Severe freezes in the last week did no harm to grain because of a general snow cover at the time. Livestock manifested some shrinkages during the cold, inclement weather late in the month, though most animals are in fairly good shape, over the western portion; there are some poor animals in the eastern portion. Feeding continues generally.

Glendive

We have had poor weather and feed conditions on the range this month. These conditions are worse than they have been for two or three years.

Our death loss was smaller this year.

The cost of production will be greater this year. Considering the conditions, credit and finance affairs are fairly good.

Our coyote trouble remains about the same.

Peter Larson

Melville

The first 14 days of March were fair, but we have had storm and snow since (March 26). We have 100 per cent more moisture this year. At Melville there is from 10 to 18 inches of snow.

Winter death loss is about normal.

Thirty-five cents a pound has been paid for 1937 wools having a shrinkage from 58 to 60 per cent.

We look for the cost of producing lambs and wool to be less than it was last year as we are getting a lot of moisture.

I believe coyotes are less numerous than they were last year.

Credit around here is very good. Fifty per cent of our stock was sold last fall and the outlook for grass is very good.

Sigurd Lavold

Big Timber

The weather has been bad, with all stock on feed, April 4. Compared with the previous two or three years, we have had more snow and cold than usual. Our death loss has been normal, but the stock is thin.

1937 shorn wools have been sold at 35 cents.

Our lambing is about average. I think the cost of production will be about 40 per cent greater.

There is no change in our coyote situation.

Money is easier to get now than it has been for the past few years.

A. A. Lamp

IDAHO

Temperatures near or somewhat above normal occurred during the first few weeks, followed by two weeks of subnormal temperatures, though not severely cold. Precipitation was light to moderate in amount, and was well distributed through the month and over the state. Much of the lower ranges are greening, and a considerable number of sheep are moving rangeward, though most livestock are still receiving more or less feed. Cattle and sheep are generally in fairly good shape.

Richfield

We have 8 inches of snow on our range (March 25). Our death loss has been about normal.

Our lambing percentage is above average.

The rise in wages will extend the cost of production this year.

I would say that coyotes are more numerous this year.

Credit and financial affairs are good here now.

Paulson Brothers

WASHINGTON

Mild weather the first two weeks was followed by normal or somewhat below temperatures. Rains and snows were frequent, and generally ample, though some eastern sections could use a little more moisture, as the subsoils are still dry. Grasses have made a good growth nearly everywhere, and pastures and ranges are affording some forage. As a consequence very little feeding is still being done. Livestock are mostly in good condition, having wintered satisfactorily.

Bickleton

Feed and weather are not so good. Conditions compare very poorly with those of March of the previous two or three years.

Our lambing is about 100 per cent.

I think the cost of producing lambs and wool this year will be greater than last year.

Money affairs are fairly good at this time.

L. Glasco

Seattle

As applied to valley sheep in this section, conditions have been very bad, with no range feed (March 10). We have about the same number of range sheep getting feed this winter. Baled hay sells from \$20 to \$22.

We have about the same number of ewes bred to lamb. The winter loss of ewes is about 5 per cent larger than one year ago.

Sheep wages have advanced about 20 per cent in the last six months.

The wool growers are paying from 6½ to 7 per cent for borrowed money. Regular banks have been increasing the extent of their loans to sheepmen. Cost of supplies is about 20 per cent higher.

We have no coyotes to speak of in this section.

Hibbard-Stewart Co., Inc.

OREGON

Mild temperatures for three weeks followed in the last week by subnormal temperatures in most sections. Moderate to good rains occurred frequently, furnishing ample moisture everywhere excepting over some northeastern counties. Pastures and ranges are making a steady improvement, and livestock are generally in good condition. Winter wheat is emerging slowly, but mostly looks well. Sheep shearing is progressing.

Heppner

Our weather and feed conditions have been normal for the last two months, and better than the average of the last few years. About the same number of range sheep are getting feed. Alfalfa hay in the stack is \$10.

About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb as last year. The death loss of ewes has been about the same.

A 5 per cent rate of interest is being paid by the wool growers for borrowed money. Regular banks have been increasing the extent of their loans to sheepmen. The cost of supplies has advanced 20 per cent.

We have been having more coyotes than last year.

R. A. Thompson

Lakeview

It has been cold here, with a lot of snow. We are a month behind what the range should be (March 30). We have not had much death loss this winter as most of the sheep have been on feed.

Shorn wools for this year have brought 30 to 32 cents. There has been quite a lot of inquiry about shorn wool contracts. Most growers who have not sold are holding for 35 cents.

Lambing has been good though there was a lot of snow to contend with.

Due to the fact that a lot of sheep have been in feedlot since November, our expenses will go up.

The Biological Survey does a good job on coyotes, but cannot cover the country. We need a federal bounty.

The local banks and P.C.A.'s are looking for the business of the good operators.

Robert L. Weir

Paisley

Feed is short here, and the weather severe. Conditions are not so good as last year because we are short of moisture (March 30).

We had a smaller death loss this winter.

Thirty to thirty-five cents has been paid for 1937 shorn wools, fine and fine-medium grade, with a shrinkage from 63 to 67 per cent. Contracts have been made at 32 cents.

Our lambing has been good. Most of the early outfits are finishing now. Cost of production will be considerably greater this year.

Coyotes are about the same in number, but they are acting worse.

Finances are very close. Sheepmen are badly in need of more flexible credit.

C. W. Withers Estate

Spray

The month of March has been quite stormy up to now, the 28th. The range conditions have not been too good, we have fed the whole month. But the range is getting better now.

The death loss in sheep has been no greater than usual in winter.

I don't know of any wools being contracted in this section lately. Lambing is on now, with very good results.

Taking the winter as a whole, it has been a very expensive one, and the cost of producing lambs and wool will be considerably greater than usual. Coyotes are more numerous than usual.

R. E. Wright

CALIFORNIA

Temperatures were abnormally warm the first half of the month, and abnormally cool the second half. Moderate to heavy rains were frequent, and fairly general, delaying farm operations, but greatly favoring the growth of pasturage. The native vegetation, is, however, later than usual because of the cold weather. Some farming lands in the Sacramento Valley were flooded. No great amount of forage is available over the northern portion yet, but it should be ample when warmth comes. Livestock are generally in thriving condition.

Byron

Feed has been very slow as the weather has been cold (March 1). Conditions are not nearly so favorable as they were in February of the last two or three years. The number of sheep getting feed this winter is much larger than usual. Alfalfa hay brings from \$25 to \$35 baled.

About the same number of ewes have been bred to lamb in 1937. We have no increase in the loss of ewes.

Wages range from \$50 to \$60.

I think the regular banks have not been increasing the extent of their loans to sheepmen, and the cost of production is going up.

There are fewer trappers at work on coyotes. Dogs give more trouble in this neighborhood.

I do not know what rate of interest is being paid by sheepmen. I believe it to be 6 per cent.

A. S. Ferguson.

Kneeland

It has been a cold, backward spring. Feed conditions in Humboldt County are a month later than usual. Stock went into the winter in poor shape due to the dry fall. Cold weather came soon after the first rains and has lasted all winter (March 30).

There has been a heavy loss of ewes, lambs and young calves. It will take a lot of lambs to pay the feed bill and get the ewe bands back in shape. No herding is done here as all the ranches are fenced.

The U. S. Government hunters keep the coyotes down, but there is some trouble with bears and dogs.

Credit and financing affairs are good here. Most of the sheepmen's loans are carried by the land bank or the R.F.C.

F. G. G.

NEVADA

Temperatures were slightly below normal during the last two weeks, but were well above normal earlier in the month. Light to moderate precipitation occurred at timely intervals leaving range prospects fairly good, as a result of a satisfactory soil moisture condition. A few cattle and some sheep have gone out on ranges, as forage is

making a fairly good start, chiefly over the western portion; there is a considerable amount of feeding still necessary in eastern counties.

Elko

The feed is short with snow on a lot of the range. The last half of March has been stormy. We have a larger number of range sheep on feed. Native hay in the stack is \$6.

A big loss is expected in trailing the sheep due to their being so weak.

Cost of supplies is higher than last year.

The coyote situation is worse than it was last year.

As I am overseeing cattle ranches and do not come in contact with the sheep like I did when sheep inspector, I do not have the full information about the present conditions among the sheep. They will not be able to shear as usual before lambing, owing to the poor feed on the trail because of the late spring and delaying them starting north to lambing and shearing locations.

D. D. Ogilvie

McDermitt

We have had a slow spring with very cold winds, and the green grass is coming out very slowly, March 29. The conditions this year are nearly the same compared with March of previous years. There was not much death loss this winter compared with others.

1937 shorn wools have been sold at 30 cents per pound. They have been contracted from 27 to 30 cents.

April lambing has not started yet, but the percentage on early lambing has been about 95 per cent.

The cost of production is about the same.

There are less coyotes this year on account of having many trappers around the country.

The financing conditions are much better this year and business is picking up very readily. The credit is good also.

Raymond Lasa

McGill

The range is about 90 per cent good as we have fair weather and plenty of moisture, March 27. Conditions have

been better than March of the last two or three years.

We have had heavy death losses in some areas, and light losses in others.

Between 28 and 31 cents has been paid for 1937 shorn wools, coarse and fine, 63 to 66 per cent shrinkage.

The cost of producing lambs and wool will be more this year because of wages and overhead expenses.

Coyotes are continually increasing.

Credit and finance affairs are getting a little better.

Steven Doutre

UTAH

The last half of the month averaged a little colder than the first half, the month as a whole being about normal, with no extremes of either cold or warmth. Precipitation was somewhat below normal over the northern portion, but some moderately heavy rains and snows occurred over the southern portion. There is a little pasturage in the far southern portion, but generally livestock are still dependent on supplemental feed. However, there are few poor animals, most livestock being in fair to good condition.

Summit

There has been a great deal of storm all through the month of March, but feed was good. Due to so much stormy weather, the sheep have not done extra well. I think the death loss will be 5 to 10 per cent higher this year.

1937 shorn wools have been sold at 30 to 32 cents, with a shrinkage of 63 to 70 per cent. Late shorn wools have been contracted for from 28 to 30 cents per pound.

Due to so much storm, our lambing percentage has been small.

I think the cost of producing lambs and wool will be 15 to 20 per cent higher than in 1936.

Coyotes are much more numerous. The situation is serious.

Unless a man is in very good condition financially, credit is very tight yet. The P.C.A.'s are making very few loans in this locality.

COLORADO

Temperatures were near normal most of the time, and precipitation, much

of it rain, occurred frequently in fairly generous amounts in many sections, leaving soils of the farming and lower range country in fairly good shape. Pastures and ranges are improving over the eastern portion, and some livestock are foraging; but livestock are still on feed in most western counties. Wind and dust have damaged some range and wheat areas in the extreme southeastern portion; wool shrinkages were also accentuated. Some sheep are being marketed from the Arkansas Valley. Most animals are in good condition.

Craig

Feed and weather conditions are fairly good, but we have had a lot of snow. Although there has been very little snow in the three previous years, our feed this year is no better.

Contracts for late shorn wools have brought from 32 to 36 cents.

We have had a much smaller loss due to coyotes this winter.

I believe credit and financial affairs are about as usual here.

W. W. McWilliams

Las Animas

We have had several bad dust storms and there is not much grass left on the range. Practically all the stock has to be fed. There is no moisture in the ground to start grass, March 11. We are feeding about the same number of sheep as last year. Good hay in the stack is \$10.

We have about the same number of ewes bred to lamb as last year. We have had a mild winter with light losses.

Wages have advanced \$5 a month.

Wool growers are paying 5 per cent on borrowed money. The banks have been increasing the extent of their loans.

Supplies come about 25 per cent higher this year. Angus McIntosh

Meeker

The weather has been stormy and blustery since March 1 (March 25) and we are still feeding \$8 hay here though the snow is mostly gone on the flats and benches, etc. While there has been more snow than the two or three previous winters, "probably one

foot average," it hasn't been too much. Our sheep have done fine so far with practically no loss here in Axial Basin. Farther west on the lower ranges of Colorado and into Utah, the conditions have been rather severe and required heavy feeding.

Quite a lot of the wools in this section were contracted earlier at 30 to 36½ cents. The grade was mostly medium and fine with a 60 per cent more or less shrinkage.

The cost of producing wool and lambs will be considerably higher in 1937 than in 1936 on account of heavier feed costs, higher wages, increased cost of grazing range, "public range and private," and practically all commodity costs being higher.

Coyotes seem to be plentiful yet, while a great many have been caught by government and privately hired trappers. I think a good bounty in all the western states would be very good, with the bounty being increased as coyotes got fewer.

Money can be had from Production Credit Associations at 5½ per cent; at some Denver banks at 6 per cent and up.

In regard to the Taylor Grazing Act, it has been rather a farce so far in its actions around here. While this District No. 1 is and will be one of the hardest to administer in a fair manner, there has been a great deal of selfishness shown with the larger outfits being protected at the expense of smaller outfits. This has been due mainly to the larger holders being board members who helped draw up regulations to fit their own conditions mainly, and not representing their electors or the average users fairly. This has been the general result to date, though of course there are exceptions.

Harold Madsen

Rifle

We have had plenty of snow and moisture, and it therefore looks very good for summer grass. This March has taken more winter feed, and we may have a late spring, but conditions look better for future months. I would say that we have had about a normal death loss. Most of

the livestock men were prepared with feed.

Shearing starts in April. I would say that there was about a 60 per cent shrinkage on wool that has been contracted from 31 to 36 cents.

The cost of producing lambs and wool will be at least 25 per cent greater this year on the western slope of Colorado.

There is plenty of money available through the Production Credit Associations, and the banks, for the right man with the setup, facilities, and the proper security. Robert MacIntosh

NEW MEXICO

Dry, moderately cold weather prevailed during the first two weeks, but about the seventeenth some good rains and snows occurred in the western portion, though it remained dry in the east and north. Generally over the state, moisture is badly needed, especially over the entire eastern portion. The season is backward, lacking warmth as a rule. Moderately heavy livestock feeding has been necessary through the month, and a few losses are reported. Showers the last week in the north-east washed dust off the grass, proving beneficial in that respect.

Ancho

The first half of this month (March 29) was warm, but the latter part has been cold with a great deal of high winds and four inches of snow on the 29th. Moisture is better this year by far, but it has been colder. Our winter death loss was below normal.

Production cost will be about the same this year.

There is a greater number of coyotes than there was last year.

T. J. Straley

Wagon Mound

Weather and feed conditions are very poor in some places. Conditions are fair compared with the previous two years (March 16). Alfalfa hay in the stack brings \$13.

There is a ten per cent increase in the number of ewes bred to lamb this year. I have not lost any ewes this winter.

Five and one-half per cent interest is being paid by wool growers for borrowed money. The regular banks have been extending their loans to sheepmen.

We have more coyote trouble this year than last.

Samuel Salazar & Sons

Willard

Since March 1 weather and feed conditions have been very good on the range. They are better than they have been for two or three years. Our winter death loss was very low.

There will be an increase in the cost of producing lambs and wool this year.

We have a greater number of coyotes this year.

Credit and financing affairs are better here now.

Jose Antonio Torres Y Padilla

ARIZONA

Dry and moderately cold weather prevailed the first two weeks, followed during the middle days of the month by some beneficial rains over the southern portion, and the valleys farther north, and snows in the northern highlands. Cool weather after the storms retarded vegetation growth. Alfalfa fields are fair, but generally the range is good to excellent. Sheep are already moving to the foothills, as water supplies and forage are plentiful.

Flagstaff

The weather has continued cold and stormy (March 26). We have had more snow and cold weather than has even been known in this locality. Near Flagstaff, the death loss has not been as bad as expected, but around Holbrook it will be from 10 to 28 per cent.

In the Phoenix country, from 30 to 41 cents has been paid for shorn wools. None has been sold around Flagstaff yet, and there are very few sheep up here to shear.

No lambing has started here yet, but around Phoenix, lambing will be from 75 to 100 per cent, and in a few instances, over 100 per cent.

Lambs and wool will cost more to produce this year on account of the increasing prices for commodities and labor.

There were not so many coyotes one year ago as there is now.

Credit and finance through both banks and the government are very good now.

Aso Sheep Company

Mesa

About 30 cents has been paid for 1937 shorn wools.

Lambing this season is about normal. Production costs will go higher this year.

As for coyotes, we do not have any in this locality.

Credit is available here at the present time. Dorman Farms Co.

WESTERN TEXAS

The first week or two was very dry, prolonging the already rather severe drought conditions; beginning toward the middle of the month, there were a few days with light to moderate rains, heavy enough to moisten the surface soils and promote the growth of grasses. Temperatures were not especially warm at any time, and there were a few cold snaps.

Recent Wool Selling

(Continued from page 19)

ing three eighths blood was around 96 cents, scoured basis. This would mean about 47 cents in the grease in Boston for light wools shrinking only 51 per cent, around 42 cents for average wools shrinking 56 per cent, and around 38 cents for heavy wools of this grade shrinking 60 per cent.

About 88 cents, scoured basis, was the most generally quoted nominal price for one quarter blood territory wools. On a grease basis, this would mean Boston prices of around 46 cents for light wools shrinking only 48 per cent, around 42 cents for average wools shrinking 52 per cent, and around 39 cents for heavy one quarter blood wools shrinking 56 per cent. Most of the mill buying in wools of three eighths and one quarter blood grades was of spot foreign lines. * * *

A few spot lots of twelve months' Texas wools were moved at prices ranging \$1.02-1.05, scoured basis, depending upon length and character. The grease equivalent of these prices in Boston would range 45-46 cents for light clips shrinking only 56 per cent, 41-42 cents for average wools shrinking around 60 per cent, and around 37-38 cents for heavy clips shrinking 64 per cent.

Contracts for twelve months' Texas wools were sold at prices ranging 97 cents-\$1.02, scoured basis, delivered east.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

OREGON

Grant County

THE regular monthly meeting of the Grant County Wool Growers' Auxiliary was held at the home of Mrs. Frank Oliver.

A plate luncheon was served at one-thirty by Mrs. Oliver assisted by Mrs. Guy Boyer. There were thirty-one members and six visitors present.

Immediately following the luncheon the following program was enjoyed: "Dad in the Hills" and "Pictures of My Mother" by Master Larry Wylie accompanied by Mrs. James Wylie. "Value of Lamb in the Diet" was the subject of an interesting talk given by Mrs. Alec Gay. The last number was a guessing game which was the occasion of much hilarity among those participating. The first to guess their identity was Mrs. Ralph Brooke, who received a set of knitting needles as first prize and the slowest was Mrs. George Velvin who was consoled with a skein of yarn.

Following the opening of the business meeting by Mrs. R. T. McHaley, President, it was decided by ballot that the Wool Growers' Auxiliary of Grant County become a member of the Grant County Unit of Wild Life Federation.

Much enthusiasm was expressed over the discussion of the organization of a summer camp for women and committees were appointed to obtain signers to attend a camp this coming summer. Any one interested can obtain information concerning these camps by writing Mrs. McHaley or the County Agent, R. E. Brooke. These camps are under the supervision of Grant County, and management of the Extension Service of the Oregon State College and are educational as well as recreational.

The March meeting will be held in Canyon City, the place and date to be announced later.

Mrs. Herman Oliver,
Cor. Secretary

Malheur County

THE Malheur County Auxiliary to the Oregon Wool Growers held its regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. T. R. Bryant, with Mrs. Roy Westscot acting as assistant hostess, on March 9, 1937, with seven members present, the president, Mrs. J. B. Adrian, presiding.

Reports were made on the 4-H Lamb Club progress and a committee was appointed to make plans for a lamb cooking school. The rest of the afternoon was spent in social activities.

A large number were absent owing to the fact that early lambing was in full swing and the members were busy cooking for their lambing crews.

The next meeting will be held April 13, 1937, at the home of Mrs. Fred S. Bailey.

Mrs. F. W. Trenkel, Secretary

Baker County

THE regular monthly meeting of the Baker Chapter No. 2 Women's Auxiliary to Oregon Wool Growers was held at the home of Mrs. L. R. Martin on March 3, with eleven members present, and with Mrs. Surge Head, President, presiding.

The Chapter finished a quilt for the Red Cross.

Gifts were presented to Mrs. Fred Phillips, past President; and Mrs. Clarence Love, past Treasurer, in recognition of their splendid services to the Auxiliary.

The members are working on woolen articles to be used or displayed in booths.

It is planned to have an April Fool's Party for members of the Auxiliary and friends. Another project to be carried out in the near future is to make a quilt of silk pieces for the purpose of raising funds for the Auxiliary.

A membership drive is to be put on with a prize given to the one securing the most new members.

The next meeting will have as hostesses, Mrs. Rosco Brown and Mrs. John King.

Mrs. Louis Osborn,
Secretary-Treasurer

Morrow County

THE monthly meeting of the Women's Auxiliary to Morrow County Wool Growers Chapter 1, was held at Lucas Place, where luncheon was served to seventeen members and four visitors.

Mrs. Carrie Beckett presided over the meeting, the period of which was taken up in a discussion for plans for a Fashion Show and Tea to be held on Saturday, March 20. Woolen garments, both knitted and fabric, are to be modeled.

Sara E. McNassier,
Secretary

UTAH

Ashley

THE Ashley Wool Growers Auxiliary of Uintah County, since its organization in the fore part of January, has been doing some commendable things.

On Friday evening, January 29, the ladies held a meeting in the Directors' Room of the Uintah State Bank. Miss Myrte Davidson of the Home Economics Department of the U. S. A. C. at Logan, was present and gave an interesting talk on "Wool and Articles made of Wool."

Saturday evening, February 13, sixty people attended the Wool Growers Auxiliary Annual Banquet at the Commercial Hotel. The wool-guessing contest, which was one of the features of the evening's entertainment, netted the Auxiliary some money. The articles made from wool which were exhibited at the State Convention and which won first prize, were on display at the banquet and brought forth much praise.

Monday afternoon, March 1, the Auxiliary was entertained at the home of Mrs. Adair Tyzack, with Mrs. W. E. Witbeck as assisting hostess. Eighteen ladies were present and enjoyed the book review "Wake Up and Live," by Dorothea Brande, given by Mrs. Charles A. Hatch. Business matters were discussed and the afternoon spent in knitting, followed by the serving of a delicious luncheon.

During the early part of April, the ladies will be entertained at the home of Mrs. Briant H. Stringham, President of the Chapter.

Through the efforts of the Auxiliary, a free knitting class has been started, which is held each Thursday afternoon from two to five o'clock. More people are becoming interested in this fascinating work all the time.

A number of other worthy projects are being planned by this group of ladies. The organization has 18 paid members.

Salt Lake

THE seventh regular monthly meeting of the Salt Lake Auxiliary to the Utah Woolgrowers' Association was held in the Union Building, University of Utah campus, on Monday, March 8, 1937, beginning at one o'clock, with Mrs. Julian Neff, President, and the Program Committee in charge.

Mrs. William Oswald gave a report on the meeting of the Salt Lake Council of Women, stating they wished all Women's Clubs to cooperate in eradicating broken glass from roads and sidewalks of the City. She also told of their discussion on present unsatisfactory sanitary conditions in restaurants and other eating places of the City and told of the interesting talk given them on the Farm Chemurgic movement now being carried on in the United States in an effort to promote the use of farm products by use of chemistry.

Mrs. Parley Dansie gave an entertaining report of the trip taken by the Utah delegates to the National Wool Growers' Convention at Albuquerque, New Mexico, in January.

Mrs. Neff appointed the following to act as a Nominating Committee: Mrs. Lucy M. Seely, Mrs. Heber Bennion, and Mrs. M. A. Smith, the latter to act as Chairman.

Mrs. Emory C. Smith, Secretary

New Mexico's New Laws

THE Thirteenth New Mexico legislature enacted a number of laws that directly affect the livestock industry. Among the new measures of this class are:

A law to provide funds payable to the state from collections on Taylor Act grazing licenses shall be expended on the districts under direction of the advisory boards. The purposes for which such funds may be used include predatory animal control, range improvements, and the purchase or rental of lands within the county.

Game animals are now defined to include bears and squirrels. Stockmen and property owners, and their employees, must secure permits "to carry firearms while engaged in the discharge of their legitimate duties within any game refuge."

A bounty of \$5.00 on coyotes and \$2.00 on bobcats is to be paid to persons holding permits to hunt these animals. Bounties are to be paid only on animals killed within the state. In claiming the bounty, the entire skin of the animal is to be presented. The skin of the right front foot of each pelt presented shall be removed and preserved for audit. A board of 3 officials will pass on all pelts. The pelts are to be sold by auction and the proceeds credited to the bounty fund.

All livestock sales rings are to be licensed. The cattle sanitary board will require health certificates before the sale of all animals. The operator of the sales ring or auction must give a bond of \$10,000.00.

Grazing or agricultural leases of state lands, and state land purchase contracts may be assigned for collateral security. Foreclosures may be made in the same manner as in connection with mortgages on real estate.

No rule or regulation of the state land commissioner shall have any effect after 60 days from the passage of the act, unless it has been printed for distribution.

It is now a misdemeanor to permit livestock to run at large upon any public highway that is fenced on both sides.

The state gave its consent to the addition of a total of 500,000 acres located in 8 counties to existing U. S. Forest Reserves.

(From El Borreguero, published by the New Mexico Wool Growers' Assn.)

The Frazier-Lemke Act and Federal Land Banks

RECOGNITION by the United States Supreme Court on March 29 of the constitutionality of the new Frazier-Lemke law followed an unfavorable feature decision upon an earlier form of the same measure. The principal feature of the present law is the provision for a three-year moratorium on farm mortgage foreclosures, to be imposed, under certain conditions, at the option of a bankruptcy court.

Governor W. I. Myers of the Farm Credit Administration, when asked to discuss the possible relationship of the Frazier-Lemke law to loans under Federal Land Banks, stated:

"Provisions of Congress relative to the Farm Credit Administration and the established equitable foreclosure policy hitherto pursued by the institutions under its supervision will tend to make the Supreme Court's decision produce relatively little effect upon their operations.

"As instrumentalities of the Federal Government the 12 Federal land banks making farm loans on first mortgages and the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation closing first and second farm mortgage loans through the Land Bank Commissioner have followed a pre-determined policy in regard to foreclosure, without questioning the constitutionality of the legislation. That policy has been that when the delinquent borrower is doing his level best to meet his payment and when no other covenants of the contract are being violated, the banks make every effort to assist him through deferment, extension or remortization of the loan. To protect the banks from loss entailed by the pursuit of this equitable policy, Congress provided them with paid-in surplus for deferments and extensions. These are utilized upon the decision of the banks that the borrower is worthy of their application."

Governor Myers said he believed the continued application of this foreclosure policy does not conflict with the intent of the amendment to the Bankruptcy Act as confirmed by the Supreme Court.

Big Gates on Little Hinges

By Peter Spraynozzle

AS Joe Bush und me go into a huddle over this page of the National Wool Grower—out here at Sheepfold where big gates swing on little hinges

We can feel the touch of spring
See spring in the trees und branches
Here spring in the birds that sing
Und in the meadow lands un pasture
The grass is growing green again.

Every-body—every-where I rekon is glad to welcome spring—spring means flowers in the gardens—buds on the trees—song birds up from the south land—the smell of fresh turned soil—all of that to be sure as spring comes to town und country, made welcome by the fruit trees as they shake there blossoms down.

But to thos vid whom spring is more then welcome—where spring comes as an answer to a prayer from hearts too full for utterence go among the men who through a long hard winter have been feeding the flocks und herds und ask them what it means to see the green grass growing again.

When the Man of Galilee said "The meek shall inherit the earth," Joe Bush says he wonders vas he thinking of the grass? It comes so meek like—silent—vid out bud or bloom or blossom—spreading its carpet of green humbly under the feet of man und beast—to be trampled alike by the king or the begger, the lion or the lamb. It struggles to live in the shade of the desert sage—at the roots of the scrub oak und the pinon pine—vhere is a handful of earth among the jagged rocks beyond the timber line of the highest mountains, vhen spring vid her magic wand drives back the snow line the grass vill be growing again.

Is it any wonder then that as the men of the range und the ranch, the men of the flocks und the herds, wake to a world washed clean vid a rain through the night—vhen the sun makes diamonds of rain drops on little blades of grass is it any wonder if they pause und say?—

It rained last night und this morning
The grass is growing again.
We thank thee, "Our Father"
It's all we can say—
But it comes from the hearts of men
Who have flock and herds
On the range und the ranch
Where the grass is growing again.

When Joe Bush und me ride the range as we sometime do—und look back from some high point on a sheep trail leading up to some high summer range—und see the activitys in valleys far below—valleys grown green in the last half century because of what men have done by draining swamps—und irrigating the deserts—looks like there is passing befor us regiments of men, men who have grown gray as the valleys vhere in they have worked und built there homes have grown green.

At the head of Main street in our home town of Salt Lake City, Utah, stands the monument of Brigham Young

the leader of the Utah pioneers who looked out over the desert waste of the sun baked Salt Lake Valley in July 1847—und said "This is the place." Und from this place pioneers were sent out und the outposts of civilization were established under the foundation not only of a state but an inland empire vas laid.

Joe Bush says—given that same job today—vhat would ve do vid it? Fly back to Washington? Wire our congressmen un senators? Make an appeal for WPA funds? Ask for an investagation und if some bureau found the project not feasible would ve forget und dream up another von? Maybe so.

But I rekon the gentelman whos monument holds the commanding position at the head of the Main street of our town would make "short shift" of our present day system of colonizing, our "Mr. can you spare a dime" appeal to the President everytime we want to dig a ditch, build a bever dam or a comfort station in a tourist camp in the national forest reserve.

As I read the history of Brigham Young und the pioneers who built this inter-mountain empire of the west—there idea of "PEP" vas not to hold a "PEP" rally, a "PEP" brackfast, a "PEP" dinner to be followed by a "PEP" dinner dance. There idea of "Pep" vas to get on the job und do the best they could vid the tools at hand. To them "PEP" ment—

Vigor, vitality, vim, und punch
Vid the curage to act on a sudden hunch
Vid nerve to takle the hardest thing
Vid feet that climb und hands that cling,
Und a heart that never forgets to sing,
"THAT'S PEP."
Sand und grit on a concrete base
A smile that can wrinkle a sun burnt face,
A spirit that helps vhen a neighbor's down
That is not afraid of a bankers frown
Who loves his neighbor und works for his town
"THAT'S PEP."
To say "I will" und take the plan
Und takle the job vid your own bare hands,
To take each smashing knock out blow
To come back vid a laugh because you know
That vid you on the job, it's got to go
"THAT'S PEP."

Joe Bush says that they done there job is to there credit—not our's. Its "by there fruits," not by there roots ye shall know them. Our children vill never build monuments to us because of vhat our Father have done. Our frontier is not the frontier they knew—our's is here und today is our day. "The world began vhen we were born—und the world is our's to win."

[Editor's Note: The above is printed in the style used by Peter Spraynozzle in his weekly broadcast from Salt Lake City for the Original Utah Woolen Mills.]

The Sheep and Lamb Situation

Spring Outlook Issue

By the Bureau of Agricultural Economics
U. S. Department of Agriculture—Issued on March 23, 1937

PRICES of new crop spring lambs in late April and May probably will be higher than a year earlier, when prices of such lambs at Chicago averaged about \$11.85.

The early spring lamb crop, mostly to be marketed by the end of June, was indicated to be about 10 per cent smaller than last year. A large part of the decrease was in California, where weather conditions in January and February were very favorable for the growth of feed and the development of lambs. The market movement of spring lambs from nearly all areas will be later than last year and later than usual.

Prices of fed woolled lambs advanced sharply in late February and early March. In the second week of March prices of such lambs reached the highest level for the month since 1929. The higher prices reflect the improvement in consumer demand for dressed lamb and higher values of pelts. Since market supplies of fed lambs during April and early May are expected to be smaller than those of a year earlier, it is probable that prices for these lambs will be well maintained.

The expected decrease in marketings of lambs will be partly offset by a large movement of grass-fat yearlings from Texas in April, May, and June. The carry-over of lambs from the 1936 crop was very large in Texas, and weather and feed conditions in the principal sheep areas of that state have been quite favorable in recent months.

* * *

Review of Recent Developments

The Early Spring Lamb Crop

The early spring lamb crop in the principal lambing areas this year is estimated to be at least 10 per cent smaller than the early lamb crop of 1936. The early lamb crop largely represents lambs which will be marketed by the end of June. In most early lambing areas lambs have been later than usual, but a large part of the decrease from last year has been in California.

CALIFORNIA—From mid-December to late February, weather conditions in California were very unfavorable for the growth of feed and for the development of early lambs. In early March, ewes and lambs in most areas were in poor condition, and heavy losses were reported for the preceding two months. Although present moisture conditions indicate good feed in March and early April, the proportion of early lambs which will develop into slaughter condition before the end of May will be relatively small.

ARIZONA—The early lamb crop in Arizona is somewhat larger this year than last year, but because of cold weather and shortage of green feed, lambs have developed slowly and marketings will be later than last year.

SOUTHEASTERN STATES—In Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee—the three important early lamb producing states in this area—weather conditions during the early lambing season were favorable in contrast to the severe weather prevailing a year earlier. The number of lambs dropped before March 1, however, was much smaller than in any other year on record. The number of lambs saved per 100 ewes lambing was much larger than last year and was above average. While the total number of lambs raised in this area probably will be as large as in 1936, the number marketed before July 1 may be smaller.

MISSOURI—Feed supplies have been very short in Missouri and until the end of February weather conditions were very unfavorable. Pastures will be late and green feed from small grain pastures has been lacking. The percentage of ewes lambing before March 1 was reported to be much below average.

NORTHWESTERN STATES—Extremely cold weather prevailed in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon in January and early February but conditions were somewhat better than in the early months of 1936. Moisture conditions are favorable for good pasture and range feed with the coming of warm weather.

TEXAS—Weather and feed conditions in the principal sheep areas of Texas have been quite favorable in recent months. The carry-over of wether lambs from the 1936 lamb crop was very large, and large marketings of such lambs as grass-fat yearlings in April, May and June are in prospect. Such marketings may equal or exceed the large movement from Texas in the spring of 1931 and 1932.

Outlook for Sheep and Lambs

Marketings of fed lambs probably will be considerably smaller than a year earlier during the remainder of the fed-lamb marketing season (up to May 1, 1937). In view of the late development of the early spring lamb crop in most areas, marketings of new crop lambs probably will be smaller than last year during April and May, and perhaps June. The decrease in marketings of lambs in the spring months, however, is likely to be offset to a considerable extent by the relatively large movement of grass-fat yearlings from Texas.

In view of the smaller early lamb crop and the probable later-than-usual market movement of early lambs, prices of new crop spring lambs probably will be higher at the beginning of new marketing season in late April and early May than a year earlier. Since marketings of early lambs before the end of June will be smaller than a year earlier, prices of lambs probably will be fairly well maintained during May and most of June, as was the case last year, when the seasonal decline in prices did not get underway until late June and early July.

Wool prices in the United States are now at a relatively high level as compared with prices of other textile fibers. The high prices are a result of the exceptionally strong demand for wool in the last two years and the reduction in world wool supplies. Although there is as yet no definite indication of a reduction in mill consumption of wool for 1937, it is possible, in view of the relatively high level of wool prices in relation to prices of other textile materials, that consumption in the United States in 1937 may not be as large as in 1936.

The higher prices for lambs since early February than a year earlier are a reflection of the improvement in the demand for meats and of the higher prices for wool and pelts this year than last. It is expected that further improvement in the consumer demand for meats will occur during the remainder of the year, and it is also probable that prices of wool and pelts will be fairly well maintained near present levels during the spring and early summer.

Summary of Wool Situation

Prices of wool in this country probably will be maintained near present levels during the first three or four months of the new marketing season which begins April 1. Although domestic and foreign prices for wool weakened slightly in the last month, supplies of wool in the United States and abroad are relatively small and demand conditions continue favorable.

Production of shorn wool in the United States in 1937 probably will not be greatly different from that of last year when 360,327,000 pounds was produced. The number of stock sheep and lambs on farms January 1, 1937 was only slightly larger than the number on farms a year earlier. Domestic production of pulled wool in 1936 was estimated at 66,200,000 pounds.

Farm Pastures and the Summer Range Problem

By R. H. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge is director of the United States Forest Service Region No. 4, with headquarters at Ogden, Utah. He is recognized as one of the most constructive thinkers in the country upon grazing matters. In this paper, which was presented before a recent meeting of the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers Association, Mr. Rutledge suggests the development of farm pastures as a partial solution of the problem caused by the insistent demands for new distribution of grazing permits. Economic studies made by the Forest Service show that farm flocks, run on summer farm pastures are generally more profitable than range sheep.

CARRYING capacity as applied to national forest range lands has a meaning much broader than it had 25 or 30 years ago. Use of range lands is much more diversified. A variety of resources or values, including timber, watersheds, forage, game, fishing, and recreation must be considered and weighed before carrying capacity for livestock and game can be accurately determined.

Rarely is there an instance where two or more of these values are not associated on any given tract of land. Here, in Utah, where livestock industry is the third largest in the state, grazing values are generally dominant. Although grazing values are important, we must, and have considered other resources or values in managing our forest lands. Watershed protection, timber production, game and recreation are essential.

We have endeavored to so correlate the grazing of livestock with that of timber production, watershed protection, game and recreation that all interests will be provided for to the extent necessary and possible. The demand for use of the various resources exceeds our ability to supply and naturally there must be some curtailment. In distributing the use, the pie must be cut into small pieces and frequently doesn't satisfy.

Big Game

As stockmen, you are perhaps most concerned about big game and the ef-

fect it will have upon your business. You have seen the number of deer and elk gradually increase and naturally want to know if livestock will have to give way to game. Stockmen, I have found, want game, they are the friends of wildlife, but, of course, want it managed and controlled when it comes in direct conflict with their interests. The Forest Service appreciates the value of wildlife and recognizes that it is an important resource but also fully realizes that game must be fostered only to the extent that it does not encroach upon or threaten other essential interests. We are striving for sane and practical management of our big game animals. In a few places they have become a problem. Our men, in conjunction with the State Game Departments, are studying these problem areas for the purpose of working out a plan of management that will be fair and equitable. In Utah, we are fortunate in having a State Board of Big Game Control, of which two of the five members are livestock men, to determine what measures of big game control shall be carried out. This board must act as a sort of balance wheel between the game and livestock interests. I am sure that the game problem can and will be handled to the best interests of all concerned. Briefly, the Forest Service policy is to produce the maximum amount of game consistent with the public welfare which means that game will have to

take its proper place according to our economic needs.

Range Carrying Capacity

In considering carrying capacity, an important question must be answered: are we going to be satisfied with the actual carrying capacity of the range based on present forage cover or are we going to consider potential carrying capacity based on improved types of forage cover? The Forest Service answered this question by deciding in favor of the latter alternative when it took over administration of range lands now under its jurisdiction. We were influenced in our decision largely by the deplorable state of the range which was included in national forests at that time. Range forage depletion had proceeded so far that large areas of range were virtual "dust beds."

In 1909, shortly after the creation of national forests, there were 121,605 cattle and horses and 836,701 sheep grazed on the forests of Utah. Twenty-seven years later, or in 1936, there were 109,145 cattle and horses and 680,239 sheep grazed on these same forests. This represents a reduction of 10.2 per cent in cattle and horses and an 18.6 per cent reduction in sheep for the 27-year period. It is not necessary for me to point out that had we continued to graze the original numbers on our national forest ranges they would be seriously depleted now, whereas as a result of a relatively small reduction,

forest ranges have materially increased in carrying capacity.

Have we made progress in improving the carrying capacity of our ranges? I believe it can be truthfully said that we have. This can be measured in numbers of stock grazed, for had we not improved the condition of our ranges we could not now graze present numbers of stock. From 1923 to 1935 we had a very serious drought condition. During only two years of that period did we have favorable seasons. During that drought period we continued to graze practically the same number of stock and although our ranges were damaged, recuperation has been rapid since the return of favorable weather conditions, much more rapid, in fact, than on other ranges suffering from unregulated use.

It is true that we have reduced numbers of stock but there are, without doubt, more pounds of good beef and lamb taken off the range each year now than there were taken off before numbers were reduced and forage conditions were improved.

Farm Pastures for Summer Range

Approximately 66 per cent of the feed required by Utah is obtained from 43,529,000 acres of range land consisting of national forest, public domain, private and other land. This vast area of range is divided about as follows: 14 per cent pasture, 18 per cent summer and 68 per cent spring, fall and winter range. Pasture lands are usually located in valleys near farms and dairy ranches. Summer range is confined largely to 7,570,000 acres of national forest land. Approximately 26,865,000 acres of Utah's public domain comprises the natural winter range. Large tracts of land between the summer and winter ranges have been acquired by private interests and are used generally for spring and fall range. Winter range is primarily maintenance range while summer range and farm pastures are used for the production of lambs and beef. The controlling factor which limits the numbers of cattle and sheep which can be run with profit is the carrying capacity

of the summer range and farm pastures.

Little opportunity is offered for further expansion of the livestock industry without adding to the already overburdened public range. Likewise, additional crop land is not available without an increased supply of irrigation water. What then, are the possibilities for supporting numbers of livestock owned by farmers and required for adequate family living?

During the period of agricultural expansion in several states, large areas of land, primarily suited to range forage production, were broken up and turned by the plow. Much of this land has been abandoned and still more is in the process of being abandoned. This land should be reclaimed and placed on a sustained forage producing basis. Artificial reseeding will be required to restock it with forage plants.

And then, there is the possibility of increasing the acreage of farm pastures. There are two general types of farm pastures common to this region, cultivated irrigable pastures and natural meadow pastures. In addition, we might mention temporary pastures, volunteer crops, stubble, and harvested hay acreage.

It is doubtful if the farmers of Utah and other western states have given farm pastures as much consideration as possible in a region which is predominantly suited to livestock production. However, good public range is becoming more scarce, national forest summer range is stocked to capacity, so about the only means whereby farmers can increase numbers of livestock or maintain present numbers is the development of farm pasture acreage.

Irrigated Pastures

Interest in irrigated grass pastures has steadily increased throughout the irrigated sections of the western states.

The possibility of increasing the acreage of farm pastures should be considered from several angles. In some sections it may be possible to convert hay acreage to pasture acreage, in others it may mean conversion of low producing crop land to pastures, and in other localities it may mean the diversion of some irrigation water to lands adapted for pasture.

It has been established that increased weight of lambs, heavier fleeces, and increased lamb crops can be obtained through the use of farm pastures. Losses also are lower because of the absence of poisonous plants and predatory animals. It is also true that farm pastures fit in well with crop rotation systems and serve equally as well as alfalfa in maintaining soil fertility. There is also the advantage of additional fertilizer being added to the soil.

Aid of Soil Conservation Act

Right now, farmers and stockmen of Utah have an opportunity to improve pasture and range conditions on privately owned farm and range land. These improvements can be accomplished without cost to the land owner. I am referring to the 1937 agricultural conservation program which has been developed in accordance with the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. Opportunity is offered each and every one of the farmers and stockmen to partake of the benefits extended by this Act. You can, through participation in this program, improve and increase farm pasture acreage by reseeding depleted and run-down crop land with such legumes as alfalfa, white clover, red clover, alsike clover, and sweet clover or by reseeding with such perennial grasses as bluegrass, brome, wheat grasses, timothy and numerous other valuable grass plants. You can increase the carrying capacity of your range lands by developing springs and seeps, drilling or digging wells, by constructing range fences for better distribution of stock and proper utilization of forage, by controlling range destroying rodents, and by reseeding depleted range lands either artificially or naturally. Reseeding naturally is accomplished by the deferred system of grazing, which means withholding range land from grazing for the period from the start of forage growth to seed maturity.

You should not hesitate to partake of the benefits offered by this program. Let's build up our ranges and help sustain an industry which means the very existence of homes in the west.

The Lamb Markets in March

Omaha

SHEEP and lambs on the Omaha market during the month of March met with a good reception and all divisions shared in the determined drive that forced prices to pre-depression levels.

Factors influencing the decided upswing no doubt included the general business upturn, the Easter demand, and rather light receipts. Arrivals for the month, in fact, were the narrowest for any year since 1902, amounting to 136,047 head as against 151,732 last year and 148,077 in March 1935.

From the low point of the period which came on the opening day of the month, fat lamb prices virtually soared upwards, some days gaining as much as 50@65 cents, until reaching the peak at midmonth with a top of \$13. With the elimination of the Easter influence, the market weakened somewhat, but as the month ended, the price movement was again upwards with the closing top at \$12.65, exactly two dollars above the finish of February.

Colorado, Wyoming, and western Nebraska continued to send in the bulk of the lambs, most of which were in a well-finished condition. Although some offerings were on the weighty order, most everything was eligible for top payments. Nearby feeders had only a moderate share of the run. Practically everything came in the wool, the wide price differentiation between woolies and clippers as well as the cold weather discouraging shearers.

The first load of California springers this season arrived in time for the Easter trade but were only of mediocre quality. A few odd bunches of native springers also came in about the same time, the best lot being eligible for a new recent peak price of \$14.25.

Approximately 10,800 lambs were taken out by feeders during the month, chiefly to nearby feedlots. Prices held well in line with fluctuations on finished stock, the spread usually being

very narrow, giving the impression that purchasers were optimistic that values would continue to advance.

Fat ewes met with an unexpectedly good demand throughout most of the month, although before the period ended, there was a sharp curtailment in the requirements, considered due chiefly to the marketings of yearlings in the far South. Before the break came, however, prices had climbed to an eight-year high at \$7.75. Although they had dropped to \$7 at the month's close, they were still 50@75 cents above the February finish.

Lester H. Hartwig.

St. Joseph

RECEIPTS showed a good increase over February, but were about 20,000 short of March last year. The month's total was 118,161 compared with 87,129 last month and 138,284 in March a year ago. Bulk of the month's offerings came from Colorado and Nebraska feed lots, the former state with 45,377 and the latter with 39,048. Other feeding districts were also well represented, about 6,700 coming from Idaho, Utah and Wyoming, 11,000 from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, and 1,700 from Arizona and California.

The lamb market during the month was on a very satisfactory basis. At the close of last month best fed offerings sold at \$10.65, and on the final day this month the top stood at \$12.65, with bulk of sales at this price, and a few loads down to \$12.25. The market advanced almost daily up to the 16th, when the top reached \$12.85. This was followed by a daily decline, the top dropping to \$11.65 on the 24th; the balance of the month saw lighter receipts and the top was boosted to \$12.65 on the closing day.

Clipped lambs sold \$9.25@9.75 late in the month, with quotations up to \$10 on the extreme close. A few native springers sold on the 16th at \$14,

and two loads of 82-pound Californias brought \$13.50 on the 19th. The market for fat yearlings shows about the same advance as lambs, choice kinds being quotable up to \$11.50 on the close. Older sheep show about \$1 gain for the month. Choice ewes were worth up to \$7 on the close, though at the high time several loads sold up to \$7.75. Old wethers and two-year-olds were quoted \$7.50@9.50 on the close.

H. H. Madden.

Chicago

A shift lamb market defies both description and explanation. Starting on its March course at \$11.50@ \$11.60, it jumped to \$13.25@ \$13.35, then sagged to \$12@ \$12.10; bounded back to \$12.60@ \$12.80, and again subsided to \$12.25@ \$12.35.

Compared with the other major branches of the livestock market, lambs ran wild. Cattle advanced steadily, hogs kept in a rut, but every session of live mutton trade was different. Erratic supply is advanced in extenuation, although the excuse needs crutches. There may be precedent, but it has been rare. Aged mutttons charted a similar course, fat ewes selling up to \$8, back to \$7, the bulk selling at \$6@ \$6.50 on the last rounds.

Early April found the bulk of the season's output in Colorado and Nebraska out of the way, the residue promising to drag out until the middle of May. Owing to the eccentric character of the trade, opinion as to what will happen this side of June varies, consensus being that weekly fluctuations will continue wide. Whenever eastern shippers get a bunch of orders, a scrimmage between that coterie of buyers and local killers ensues, and whenever either is under the necessity of bidding for numbers, the fiddler collects his dues. Indicating how strongly the residue of the



Champion Rambouillet Ram at the Fort Worth Centennial, Dallas Centennial, American Royal, Chicago International (1936) and Denver Stock Show (1937).

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winter-fed crop is held is prompt cur-
tailment of supply on every break.

Local supply tributary to the Chi-
cago market vanished early in March,
only truckloads and bunches of natives
with an occasional band of fed westerns
arriving, some of the latter making the
\$13.25 top for the season on March 15.
On that day 13 cars out of 19 on sale
went on eastern orders. Packers re-
moved the \$13 figure the next day when
the buying side of the trade was re-
duced to hard picking. Colorado
furnished the bulk of the month's sup-
ply. Without the contribution from
that quarter, western Nebraska, and
a preliminary contribution by Texas,
lamb eaters would have been on short
rations.

Early in March the trade had no
inkling of subsequent events, although
the advance was well under way at the
close of the first week, with gains of
35@50 cents on both clipped and shorn
stock, putting the top up to \$11.50,
the bulk selling anywhere from \$11.10
@11.50. This put breeders in a position
to recover their capital plus a feed bill.
Fresh shorn lambs were marked up to
\$9.25, fall shorn making \$10.50. This
upturn was emphatic, all buying inter-
ests participating in a scramble to
secure a few head.

During the second week apprecia-
tion continued, the top going to \$12.35
and the bulk to \$12@12.35, the high-
est price level since March 1929. Shorn
lambs were a minus quantity, only one
load arriving to sell at \$9.75.

Pyrotechnics developed early the
third week when another 50 cents per
hundredweight was put on the previ-
ous altitude, sending one load of Wis-
consin fed lambs to \$13.25, the bulk to
a \$13@13.25 basis, fresh shorn stock
reaching \$10.75. At the close all this
gain had vanished, the top had been
set back to \$12.65 and the whole mar-
ket was in the throes of a vicious slump
for which the stereotyped explanation
"dressed market cracked" was ad-
vanced.

The final full week witnessed jockey-
ing for position between contending
factions, buyers having the best of the
argument. They forced further de-
clines of 25@40 cents per hundred-
weight, put the top down to \$12.10 and

made it an \$11.75 market until the tide went against them, whereupon the selling side went to the bat, marked the top up to \$12.50 and disposed of the bulk at \$12.50@12.85. On the short week at the end of the month, bear raiding was resumed, setting the bulk back to \$12.25@12.40.

These sudden and sharp mutations have elicited criticism in feeding circles, probably without warrant as they indicate a highly competitive market in striking contrast to swine trade which has been in a rut all winter, varying but 10 to 15 cents daily and unable to hold advances. Had the lamb market charted the same course, feeders would have run into heavy loss on the entire crop, whereas late marketing showed substantial profit. A trade that varies 25 to 50 cents per hundredweight between sessions at least affords action.

Spring lambs were scarce. A few natives sold anywhere from \$13@18, the first run of Californias averaging 81 pounds realizing \$13.50. Probably early arrivals from that quarter were hand picked, but they exceeded in weight and condition advance reports.

Features of the March supply were the excellent condition and dressing capacity of Colorados and Nebraskas, lack of both in near-by contributions. Thousands of fed western and native lambs from the cornbelt were discounted 50 to 75 cents per hundredweight that would have been eligible to bulk prices had they been fed out. High cost of grain was responsible, many feeders resorting to substitute commercial feeds with unsatisfactory results. Standard bands were lightly sorted and weight was no handicap, only extremes taking a 25 cent penalty.

Shorn lambs were scarce as packers bid for wool. They penalized old crop lambs, minus fleece, \$2 per hundredweight, paying a premium of \$1 per hundredweight on spring lambs, which is considered an equitable adjustment. Shearers operated sparingly for two reasons; taking off wool is expensive, and they were unable to buy secondhand lambs at prices warranting the operation.

Native lambs in desirable condition disappeared. The dregs of the crop

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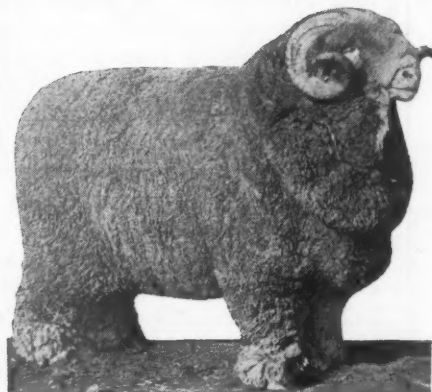
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drifted in from day to day, lambs that might have been fed out at a profit. Scarcity of feed was one responsible influence, lack of confidence in the future market, another.

Heavy lambs got by with scant penalization, if any. There is always a place to put a few heavy carcasses, and when gain cost is high, the big ones sell practically at a parity with handy weights. Killers made no complaint concerning yields on the bulk of the supply which ran to handy, popular weights.

A crash in the fat mutton market was no surprise. Handyweight ewes sold up to \$8, then back to \$7 within a few days, when prices drew a slight increase in supply. On the break, \$6@ \$6.50 bought the bulk of the native ewes, which, with the exception of a few strings of fed westerns comprised the bulk of supply.

Dressed trade was as wobbly as the live mutton market. Wholesale prices were advanced \$1@\$2 per hundredweight when the live lamb market soared; retailers tacked on more and the ultimate consumer refused to go along. At the crest dressed lamb carcasses sold in Chicago at \$17 to \$20 per hundredweight; at Atlantic seaboard markets, \$18.50@\$22. Distributors took advantage of the opportunity to reduce holdings put into storage during the low period in January when that policy was necessary to relieve distributive channels of gluts and prevent demoralization of the live market. January's freezer accumulation was worked down to small volume during the period scarcity.

Mutton carcasses advanced 50 cents @\$1 per hundredweight, or \$10.50@\$12.50 per hundredweight, wether carcasses making \$13@\$14 in Chicago. At New York ewe carcasses went to \$14.50@\$15.

Spring lamb carcasses sold at \$23 to \$28 per hundredweight in Chicago, \$23 to \$25 in the East. Phony spring lamb was retailed everywhere, light, fed carcasses being introduced to shoppers in that guise.

At the inception of April, the visible supply was in Colorado, California, and Nebraska, Indiana reporting its season's liquidation as practically complet-

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509 McCormick Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

ed. With the regular supply season several months away, price maintenance during the April to June period will be logical. Colorado and adjacent feeding territory west of the Missouri River have pursued a conservative marketing policy all through the winter and will probably string out the residue until early May. California is a factor yet to be determined. In any event, supply from that quarter will be substantially reduced compared with 1936. Kentucky and Tennessee report the usual number, probably a few more than last year, flocks in excellent condition, and the marketward movement to eastern slaughter houses scheduled for the normal period.

What Texas has concealed in its capacious sleeve, nobody pretends to know. Loading in that quarter expanded late in March when Fort Worth resumed lamb trading on a scale of magnitude paying up to \$9.75 for shorn yearlings of last year's crop. Texas may furnish relief to harried killers and distributors during April and May. Whatever contribution it may be able to make will help fill out the gap. However, there will always be enough to go around, and during periods of semi-scarcity, those who are fortunate or sagacious enough to have a few on hand will reap a reward. The price setting pace during the ensuing 90 days is up to Texas and California.

The winter market has been satisfactory to those who held for the late market. Until the common price crossed the \$11 line, feeders were in trouble; subsequently, they have either paid out or made money. Had the March prices held on an even basis, results would have been far more satisfactory to all concerned, feeders, processors, distributors and consumers. Mid-winter demoralization was the result of disorderly marketing in which Idaho was a conspicuous offender, holding lambs for winter finishing that could have been advantageously sold to eastern feeders last fall. Costly gains in the cornbelt dislodged lambs early and made trouble.

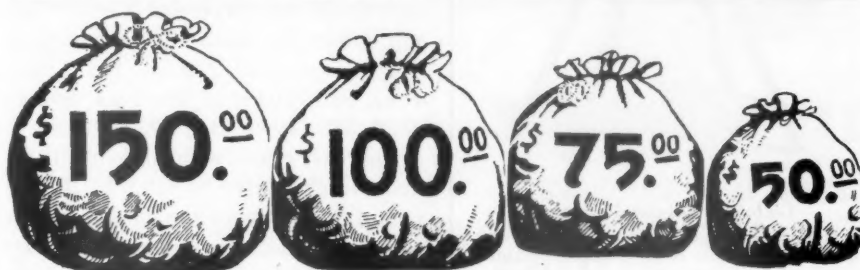
There may be scant relationship between dressed lamb and other meats, but influence between all kinds of

animal and avian foods exists. Consumers have a confirmed habit of switching when poultry is abundant and relatively cheap, and fish interests are always on the alert. Temporarily, at least all meat is scarce and costly, with every indication that it will continue that way until feed scarcity is relieved. Lamb is not in competition with foreign product, as none is being imported with the exception of a small poundage from Canada during seasons when that country has a surplus.

The feed situation is serious. This will not be inimical to the summer lamb market, as grass is the principal production factor, but grain, especially corn, must be reckoned with when feed-lot replacement time comes around. On the outcome of the 1937 corn crop will depend prices of the thin-fleshed end of the 1937 lamb crop. A large acreage will be planted, but the outcome is always in doubt until the crop is ready to crib.

Whatever happens, spring and summer meat poundage will be substantially lighter than that of the corresponding period of 1936. The old crop of cattle is rapidly disappearing, few replacements have been made meanwhile, and killers face a prolonged supply of near beef, warmed up on concentrates, grass product, and the dregs of the bovine population of the country. A large percentage of the winter hog crop has gone into processors' cellars where it awaits summer liquidation. Owners regard this pile of meat with complacency as it was put away at reasonable cost and will be needed before a new supply of hogs is ready.

The present problem is feed. Killers are short of kill; meat makers short of grain. The obvious remedy is a normal, if not a bumper crop of corn, which Nature must supply if present scarcity is to be relieved. Consumer protest against rising cost of meat is not yet audible, but is inevitable if present conditions continue.



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THE March lamb market "shot the works" to record the highest price level for the third month in any year since 1929. At times the trade was a wild scramble and at other times it sagged into such indifference that it looked like the buying side had gone out of business completely. There have been very few months on record when the selling side so completely dominated the situation as it did in March. Salesmen had killers in a "crack" most of the month and they put on the pressure, regardless of the fact that killers were able, at times, to find temporary relief through their direct purchases.

The March net advance in lambs was \$2.10. At the extreme high point the market was up \$2.25. The low point after the middle of the month was \$1 above the February close. After the second week the bulk of the good lambs sold at \$12 and better with the top \$12.85. The closing top price \$12.60 compares with \$10.50 on the February close, \$10.40 January close and \$9.50 the December close. The top prices for lambs in March since 1929 were: 1930, \$10.55; 1931, \$12; 1932, \$10; 1933, \$5.65; 1934, \$9.85; 1935, \$10; 1936, \$11; 1937, \$12.85.

February closed with lambs at \$10.50 and March started at \$10.80. By the end of the first week the market was up to \$11.75, and after a slight hesitancy reached \$12 on the 12th, from which point it rose to \$12.85 on the 17th. There was a setback to \$11.50 by the 24th and from there out it was a rising trend that ended the month at \$12.60.

Wool, slats, and meat, sharing evenly against the first cost, accounted for the advance, but the dressed product gave meat distributors some bad moments because consumers in some sections were inclined to revolt against rising prices, and in other sections labor strikes had a reducing influence on purchasing power. On the other hand fewer lambs were reported on feed than a year ago and the spring lamb crop, estimated as 10 per cent short, was developing very slowly because of a backward season.

April will practically clear feed lots

of winter-fed lambs. Offerings since the beginning of the year have carried heavier average weight than in any previous similar period. At the beginning of the feeding season most feeders were uneasy because they laid in lambs at unusual weights, because the season in most range states was favorable for producing weight. The heavy weight out of feed lots and practically no discrimination at markets, permitted feeders to get about the normal weight gain.

Up to this time there has been very little shearing. Weather has been cool and favorable for holding lambs in fleece. The few shorn offerings that did arrive brought more than a \$1 margin under full fleece offerings. If April develops some warm days considerable shearing will be done as some of the lambs are beginning to show yearling traces and pelts are beginning to get stringy.

Finishers took every thing that looked thin enough to permit of reasonable weight gain, paying from \$9 to \$11, depending on quality and condition. Owing to the fact that killers did not do much sorting there was only a limited supply available for finishers and straight lot feeders were very scarce.

New crop lambs came into the market picture the middle of the month, to be specific on March 15. Prior to that time there had been a few scattered bunches of native springers, but they were not in sufficient volume to test values. Easter came early this year and on that account normal supplies could not be marketed in time to connect with that particular trade. The first arrivals of Arizona new crop lambs sold March 15. They brought \$13 to \$13.65. The next day Arizona and Texas springers brought \$13.25 to \$13.75. In the next few days native springers sold at \$13.50 to \$15 and the following week Arizonas brought \$12.50 to \$13.25, but most of them were too late for the Easter trade. After Easter Sunday spring lambs brought \$12 to \$13.10 and the market on the close of the month seems fairly well settled at that price range. New crop lambs usually maintain a 50 to 75 cent margin

above winter fed lambs during April, so it is reasonable to expect a \$12 to \$13 market for them next month.

The native spring lamb crop will round into shape unusually late this year. Winter temperatures and cold snowy weather prevailed in the corn belt until the close of March. This condition added to the scarcity and high price of feed makes for a late marketing period. Killers anticipated this lateness and now have the bulk of the early California lamb crop under contract. It means that they will practically control the distribution from from that state.

Fat sheep got a good reception until late in March when they were about 50 to 75 cents under the high point of the month. In the third week fat ewes sold up to \$7.85 and fat yearlings up to \$11. On the close ewes were selling at \$7 down and yearlings under \$10.50. A good many fresh shorn ewes arrived late in the month. They sold at \$4.50 to \$5.50, with some culls at \$2.90. The amount of wool was the big factor in sheep prices.

March receipts were 128,914 which compares with 120,666 in the same month last year. Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma offerings showed a decrease but Texas, New Mexico and Colorado contributed more than in the same month last year. In the three months this year receipts were 414,218 and increase of 82,213 over the same period 1936.

C. M. Pipkin

Fattening Lambs in Fields

IN a recent issue of the American Sheep Breeder, R. J. Rich, an Illinois feeder, makes comments upon a number of points of interest to range lamb raisers. He discusses (1) weight of lambs for field finishing, (2) buying feeder lambs in small lots, (3) whitefaced lambs as feeders; (4) starting lambs on feed, and (5) cleaning up weeds with lambs. Mr. Rich's article follows:

The popularity of the field feeding system of handling western lambs early in the fall

has greatly increased in the past ten years in Illinois. Although our experiment stations have done some splendid work in gathering data on dry lot feeding, their scope is naturally quite limited when it comes to comparing field feeding methods using double decks as units. There was a time not so long ago when farmers who contemplated field feeding lambs were given to understand that they were undertaking a very risky venture and must expect to lose a sizable percentage if they had the nerve to experiment with clover, alfalfa fields, lambing down corn, etc. Although I believe that field feeding of lambs will always be considered a more or less specialized work, much of the fear and speculation has been removed by understanding some of the basic factors involved in this type of feeding.

In the first place, feeders have become educated as to the comparative merits of different types of feeder lambs. The heavy type of feeding lamb, 65 to 75 lbs., which comes from the early lamb producing states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and which are shipped in August, are considered preferable to the lighter weight lambs from Montana and Wyoming, which as a rule do not ship in great numbers until September. This is because the heavier lambs have shown themselves to be hardier and better able to absorb the rich green feeds which become available in the corn belt following the oats harvesting season. Personal experiments and observation have led me to believe that normally the death loss of 65-75 lb. lambs is about one-half that of 55-60 lb. lambs where they are pastured on rich legumes or fed in corn fields. In dry lot this decided advantage would not apply however.

Ten years ago the average farmer feeder had to go to the market for his one or two loads of feeders and as a rule he did not get any of the breaks as the big commercial feeder, who went direct to the ranges, was getting the better lamb and he was taking what was left. Today, however, many groups of feeders pool their orders and have someone specialized in purchasing feeder lambs go to the range and buy entire range supplies of big outfits there. I have noticed in the western states that the bigger outfits with greater financial resources are able to use better rams and lease the best feeding grounds for their summer ranges. This necessarily means better lambs. Many of the poor results obtained some years ago throughout the cornbelt were no doubt attributable to a poorer class of available feeders on open markets—in some cases odd tail-end lots of stale lambs being used to make up a load. This type of lamb simply cannot stand the gaff of rich green feeds although he may be nursed along successfully in dry lot with ample attention.

In Illinois the blackface feeder lamb seems to be generally preferred and many feeders are willing to pay a premium for them. However, it must be remembered that

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practically all these blackface lambs are the result of a Hampshire or Suffolk ram used on whiteface ewes of Merino or Rambouillet breeding. Some bands of Rambouillets of the smooth finewool type make exceptional gains and seem to be a bit harder than blackfaces under adverse conditions.

I, for one, am absolutely opposed to the idea of putting a healthy feeder lamb on a straight hay diet for a week after arrival on the farm. It seems far wiser to use a limited amount of green feed such as bluegrass or second year sweet clover along with a fair fill of hay. A long continued straight hay diet seems to constipate feeders under certain conditions. We have never found it practicable to use feeder lambs to clean up weed patches for at least several weeks after arrival. Much of the "bighead" trouble reported seems to be due to a combination of weedy fields and hot weather, especially when lambs are somewhat weakened after a long and hot trip from the West. A light feed of oats from the beginning seems to be a profitable practice. This is especially true when lambs go onto new clover, rape and alfalfa fields. Oats seems to counteract, somewhat, any bloating tendency and an early morning feed seems to prevent excessive gorging. In other words, when using these sappy green feeds, it is well to see that the lambs do not become unusually hungry. Access to hay during the night until lambs become fully fit to stay on green feed will aid materially. When lambing down corn we have found it advisable to have soybeans planted in each hill. Gains seem to be greatly increased but lambs when used for utilizing soybeans should be turned into the soybeans before beans are fully formed in the pods. When this is done the laxative effects will not be nearly as noticeable after pods are formed and the beans become ripe.

Lambs running in corn fields should also have a legume or rape field adjacent and as soon as this feed is frosted, legume hay of good quality must be provided as a roughage to balance the heavier corn eating. At this stage a protein concentrate should also be used for most economical gains. An abundance of clean fresh water is important and is the cheapest thing created for putting on gains. A shallow trough with guards to prevent lambs from getting their feet into it should be provided. Lambs are quite finicky and contaminated water is repulsive to them. The first feeding of salt should begin within a few days after arrival and at first only small amounts should be scattered about so all lambs get a little of it.

When good practices are observed in field feeding and careful planning has been observed during the crop growing season prior to delivery of the lambs much of the battle has been won. The personal element will always be a big factor in determining the success of the enterprise. It is difficult to follow skilled directions unless there is a personal interest in the lambs and a determination to make the business pay.

How Much Will a Lamb Fill Off the Cars?

THE following statement was issued recently by the Denver Stock Yards Company:

It has come to our attention that certain feed yards adjacent to southern Missouri River markets have been weighing lambs off the cars on arrival and then comparing that weight with the outbound weight to show the large fill received. The impression is left that such a fill would not be received unless the lambs were handled in this manner and that it cannot be obtained at any other point.

One of the most obvious things is that a lamb is very empty, both of feed and water, after having been on a railroad car for 36 hours, or for two 36 hour runs. This is but nature—the same as would happen to a human being under like conditions. Repeated tests at Denver, conducted last year on approximately 1,000 cars of lambs, to secure a fill allowance on weights for freight charges at all markets, showed that lambs, compared to off-car weights, filled at Denver from 3 pounds to 10 pounds per head. The amount of fill depended almost entirely on how long they had been en route, or, in other words how much they had shrunk out before arrival. The longer the haul to the feeding point, the greater the shrink before unloading and naturally, the larger the fill after unloading. This does not indicate a greater sale weight at a more distant point, as, at an intermediate point they are not shrunk out as much as at the distant point. There is not much to replace because there has not been as much loss in the first place.

Water weighs 8 pounds to the gallon. After having had no water for 36 hours, in a period of 4 or 5 hours, a lamb will easily consume from 2 to 3 quarts of water. This is from 4 to 6 pounds of water alone. A couple of pounds of hay per head bring this up to 6 or 8 pounds per head total. If they do not consume this much, it is because they are not heavily shrunk out in the first place and there is not room for such a fill. This occurs at any point where

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the lambs are properly fed and watered—at Denver, the Missouri River, Jersey or Hong Kong. It is not because of any special treatment or the geographical location of the feeding point. It applies to all animals from human beings to angle worms. We have felt it so obvious and so natural that we have not called the attention of growers to this "automatic fill" at any point where the lambs might be watered or fed, including Denver.

Some lambs forwarded from Denver awhile back to a southern Missouri River market and stopped at a feed yard en route for a full fill, gained 7/10th of a pound over the Denver weight, or probably half the cost of the fill, to say nothing about the additional freight, time, and other expense.

Livestock Biggest Source of Farm Income in U.S.

IN every year since 1924, with the exception of 1932, meat animals have been the average farmer's biggest source of farm cash income, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture figures.

Dairy products were first in 1932, fourth in 1924 and 1925, and second in the other nine years. Fruits and vegetables have ranked third since 1930, poultry and eggs have usually ranked sixth. The average 12-year percentage of the average American farmer's cash income obtained from the sale of meat animals in 1924-35 was 23.5 per cent, or nearly one-fourth of his total average cash income. This did not include rental, benefit and drouth relief payments to livestock farmers by the government in 1933-35. Inclusion of these payments would have raised the percentages in 1933-34 only slightly.

So large is the livestock industry of the United States that in 1934 farmers received more than one and a half billion dollars for the cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, and hogs which they sent to market, exclusive of government benefit or drouth relief payments. Of this amount, \$701,600,000 was received for cattle and calves, \$697,600,000 was received for hogs,

and \$104,400,000 was received for sheep and lambs. Livestock contributes more to the cash incomes of farmers in the Middle West and West, where livestock raising is the primary industry, than in other parts of the country where farm industries of other kinds are dominant.

Index to Advertisers

COMMERCIAL

CAMP WAGONS AND TENTS

Ahlender Mfg. Co., Provo, Utah.....	34
Smith & Adams, 225 Edison St., Salt Lake City, Utah.....	3
Sidney Stevens Implement Co., Ogden, Utah.....	3

EAR TAGS, BRANDS, ETC.

C. M. Allen, Miles City, Mont. (Lamb Coat).....	37
American Turpentine & Tar Co., New Orleans, La.....	38
Wm. Cooper & Nephews.....	38
O. M. Franklin Blackleg Serum Co.....	38
J. E. Gibbs, Rock River, Wyo. (Lamb Heaters and Wild Animal Scaraways).....	36
Intermountain Stamp Works, Salt Lake City, Utah.....	3
Minehart Traylor Co., 2500 Walnut St., Denver, Colo.....	37
Salt Lake Stamp Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.....	38

FEEDS

Morris Feed Yards, Kansas City, Mo.....	39
---	----

HIDES AND FUR

Colorado Animal By-Products Co., Salt Lake City.....	39
Greenband Hide & Fur Co., Ogden, Utah.....	3
Idaho Hide & Tallow Co., Twin Falls, Idaho.....	38

LAND

W. D. Candland & Sons, Mt. Pleasant, Utah.....	38
Coffin Bros., Yakima, Wash.....	38

MISCELLANEOUS

Beneficial Life Insurance Co., Salt Lake City.....	35
Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.....	39
Paragon Printing Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.....	38
Salt Lake Engraving Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.....	38
Shepherd Wanted, c/o Box 19, National Wool Grower.....	38

PACKERS

Swift & Co.....	2
-----------------	---

SHEARING MACHINERY

Chicago Flexible Shaft Co. (Western Office, 224 S. W. Temple, Salt Lake City).....	3
--	---

STOCK YARDS

Chicago Union Stock Yards.....	Cover
Denver Union Stock Yards.....	Cover
Kansas City Stock Yards.....	1
Omaha Union Stock Yards.....	Cover
Salt Lake Union Stock Yards.....	3

WOOL

Colorado Animal By-Products Co., Salt Lake City.....	39
Greenband Hide & Fur Co., Ogden, Utah.....	3
Idaho Hide & Tallow Co., Twin Falls, Idaho.....	38
Pacific Wool Growers, Portland, Oregon.....	39
Utah Woolen Mills, 24 Richards St., Salt Lake City, Utah.....	39
West Unity Woolen Mills, 132 Lynn St., West Unity, Ohio.....	39

SHEEP

Herbert T. Blood, 280 S. Santa Fe Dr., Denver, Colo.....	34
California Ram Sale, Sacramento, Calif.....	1
Coffin Bros., Yakima, Wash.....	38
W. S. Hansen, Collinston, Utah.....	33
Walter P. Hubbard, Junction City, Ore.....	34
King Bros. Co., Laramie, Wyo.....	32
J. K. Madsen, Mt. Pleasant, Utah.....	33

BREED ASSOCIATIONS

American and Delaine Merino, Xenia, Ohio.....	32
American Corriedale, Laramie, Wyo.....	32
American Hampshire, Detroit, Mich.....	34
American Rambouillet, Marysville, Ohio.....	32
American Shropshire, Lafayette, Indiana.....	32
American Suffolk, Moscow, Idaho.....	34
National Corriedale, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.....	34
National Suffolk, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.....	34

Wyoming Law on Canned Meats

THE recent session of the Wyoming legislature placed a ban upon the sale of imported canned meats in that state. The new law, printed below, requires that all canned meats must bear the inspection stamp of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which is impossible with meats canned in foreign countries.

The law reads as follows:

AN ACT providing for the proper labeling of canned meats; providing for enforcement; and providing penalties.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

LABEL

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell or offer for sale in the State of Wyoming any canned meat unless such can or cans shall be plainly labeled, or marked as follows, "U. S. Inspected and Passed by the Department of Agriculture" or such other indicia or words as shall be used by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to indicate that such product has been inspected and passed by them.

PENALTY

Section 2. Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this Act will be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars or more than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars.

ENFORCEMENT

Section 3. The Attorney General of the State of Wyoming, the Commissioner of Agriculture of Wyoming and the County Attorney of each county of the State of Wyoming, are each charged with the proper enforcement of this Act.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect and be in full force from and after September 1, 1937.

Approved February 27, 1937.

SHEEPMEN'S BOOKS

Horiacher & Hammond's Sheep.....	\$2.00
Hultz & Hill's Range Sheep and Wool.....	3.00
Morrison's Feeds and Feeding.....	5.00
Sampson's Livestock Husbandry on Range and Pasture.....	4.00
Sampson's Native American Forage Plants.....	5.00
Sampson's Range and Pasture Management.....	4.00

FOR SALE BY

National Wool Growers Assn.
509 McCormick Bldg. Salt Lake City, Utah